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OF

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10

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INDEX TO VOL. X.

CHESS.

THE CHESS WORLD. 1, 4; 19, 22; 35, 38; 51, 53; 75, 78; 95, 98; 169, 174; 193, 196, 209

May.—Promise and performance of metropolitan Chess—Mr. Blackburne's blindfold play—The late Mr. Waite's library—Zukertort v. Blackburne—Chess in Manchester—Ahenæum v. Manchester Chess Club—Chess in Penzance—Huddersfield College Magazine—A Chess Charade—Chess in Glasgow—Mr. Jenkin's lecture—The Liverpool Handicap—English Amateurs in Paris—Chess in Denmark—A Russian Chess Journal—Chess in Canada—Mr. Bird in Montreal-Song—*New York Clipper* Problem Tourney (two diagrams)—Dedication to Miron Hazeltine (diagram)—Herr Horwitz in the States—Chess in Lima—*Estrategia Mexicana*—Mr. Wisker in Brisbane—Australian Chess.

June.—Zukertort v. Blackburne—Prospects of the proposed match—An Amateur v. a professor and an imprecedented breakdown—Mr. Gastineau's Chess party—Bermondsey v. Shaftesbury—Blackburne v. Beardsell—Handicap Tourney at the St. George's Chess Club—Chess in Croydon—Mr. Macdonnell's performance—Stourbridge v. Dudley—Chess in Hull—Chess in France—M. Maczuski *Sans voir*—Problem Tourney of the Mid German Association (two Diagrams)—Chess in America—The Cape International—Mr. Bird in Canada—Paul Morphy *redivivus*—Australian Chess—The Lowenthal fund.

July—Chess in London—Bermondsey amateurs on the war path—The Counties Chess Association—Chess in Newcastle-on-Tyne—Continental Chess—Preparations for the fray—Chess in Italy—The Anderssen festival at Leipsic—Congress of Chess players at Cologne—Chess in America—The Centennial problem tourney (five diagrams)—The Lebanon problem tourney: award of prizes—Great Britain v. the States in Correspondence—American Chess—English Chess and foreign players—Letter from Mr. Macdonnell—A *Field* fizzle!

August—Zukertort v. Blackburne—The Professors in trouble—Caissa v. "Backers"—A Bohemian ultimatum—Mr. Gastineau's summer party—The City Club Tourney—Herr Harrwitz in London—The Counties Chess Association—The Birmingham meeting—Chess in Hull—The Anderssen Festival—Chess in America—Congress of Chess Editors in New York—Mr. Bird's Chess Openings—Original classification of Chess Problems—The Centennial Problem Tourney (thirteen diagrams)—Loyd crossing the Danube.

September—The Mannikin vehm-gericht and English Chess—Mr. Macdonnell at the City Club—Death of James Walker, of Hull: memoir by E. Freeborough, with a game—The Counties Chess Association: meeting in Birmingham, and the results of the tourney—The Anderssen festival at Leipsic—Chess in America: convention of Chess writers in New York—The *Lebanon Herald* problem tourney—Mr. Bird's new work on the openings—Chess in Australia: Victoria v. New South Wales—The *Williamstown Chronicle*—Problem by E. L. Bailey.

October—The professors again—Twenty-sixth season of the City Club: programme—Mr. Potter and the Bermondsey Chess Club—Chess at the Birkbeck Institution—Macdonnell v. Labourdonnais—Garrulity or taciturnity—A Mayor's Mare: a postal card combat—Original problem making—The West End Chess Club: the close of its career—Chess in Scotland—*La Strategie* problem tourney (diagram)—Chess in America—Mr. Loyd in the *Scientific American*—The birthday of *Phania*—Mr. Wisker in Brisbane—The game in New Zealand.

CHESS—*continued*.

November.—A British Chess Problem Association—Supper at the City Club—A Square Tournament—Pairing of the Players—"Her Mare" in Coventry—The Metropolitan District Matches and Tourneys—Chess in Bristol and Clifton—Mr. Blackburne in Manchester and Bradford—Chess in Scotland—Mr. Nash's Correspondence Tourney—A New Chess Club on the Tees—Chess in France—*La Stratégie* upon English Chess and English Chessplayers—Chess in the States—Disputing Awards in Problem Tourneys—Chess in the Australian Colonies—Report from the *Adelaide Observer*.

December.—The City of London Chess Club—Discord Exorcised—Happy Results—The Metropolitan District Clubs—Death of Remington Wilson—The *Holloway Press*—A New Chess Column—Reviewing Awards in Problem Tourneys—Ourselves as Other See Us—Mr. Nash's Correspondence Tourney—Mr. Thorold's Match with Miss Rudge—The Ladies in Chess—The British Chess Problem Association—Programme for 1878—Chess in the Provinces—Meeting at Grantham—Programme of the Proceedings—A New Edition of Chess Gems—Chess in Australasia—The American Chess Problem Association Tourney—The Conditions—The City of London Club Handicap—Chess in Hull.

January, 1878.—The City Club Handicap—The Metropolitan District Clubs—Liverpool v. Manchester—Mr. Blackburne in Manchester—The British Chess Problem Association—The Key of Officer and Office—The Grantham Meeting—Chess in Chichester—Judge Baiting—A Chess Century—A Novel Handicap—Chess in Scotland—America v. England—The International Match by Correspondence—Chess in America—Chess in Australasia—The Metropolitan District Clubs—Supper at the City Chess Club.

February.—The Lowenthal bequest Mr.—Bird in London—Second Meeting of the Lincolnshire Chess Association—Meeting at Grantham, and the result of the Tourneys—The Liverpool Chess Club—Chichester v. Littlehampton—A new Chess Problem Association—The British Chess Problem Association—Chess in France—Chess in America—The *Hartford Times* Literary Tourney—The Judges' award—Chess in London—Matches and Tourneys of the district Clubs—Celebration of Mr. Bird's return at the City Clubs.

March.—The Lowenthal Memorial—Mr. Medley's plan—Chess in the provinces—Bradford v. Manchester—Birmingham v. Dudley and Stourbridge—Chess in Scotland—The Huddersfield College Magazine Tourney—Mr. Andrews' award—Chess jokes—Chess in Paris—Mr. Rosenthal's performance *sans voir*—Chess in America—The Manhattan Chess Club—The *Hartford Times* prize poem—Chess in London—Annual Meeting of the City Club—The arrangements for the Lowenthal Tourney—Memorial Cups—The district Chess Clnb—Matches and Tourneys.

April—Metropolitan Chess Problem tournies—*British Problem Association—Huddersfield College Magazine*—A Problem Code—Country Club matches—Chess in Scotland—Fatal Problems—Self mate Problems—The Paris Congress—Chess in America—Chess in Madras—Chess Automata—A Ladies Chess Club—New Surburban Chess Association—City Club Banquet—Mr. Blackburne *sans voir*—City Club Handicap—The Metropolitan District Club matches.

CHESS GAMES.—
A. and Schull 103
Amateur and Brown 102
Anderssen and Kieseritzki 43

CHESS—*continued*.

Anderssen and Dufresne 43
Anderssen and Morphy 43
Ashleigh and Freeborough 221
Blackburne and Macdonnell... 8
Blackburne and Ford... 60
Blackburne and Jones 120
Blackburne and Mitchell 120
Blackburne and Wood 157
Blackburne and Giltay 158
Blackburne and Simon 158
Blackburne and Block 220
" " Wilson 220
Brewer and Murray 9
Barnett and Delman 25
Barnett and Gilberg 25
Barnett and Perrin 25
Bedford and Gravesend 61
Brown and Amateur 102
Boden and Carter 120
Boden and Earnshaw... 140
Brahmin and Cochrane 221
Barber and Bussy 158
Bussy and Barber 158
Beardsell and Robey 201
Bearsdell and Cooper 139
Burn and Steinkuhler 220
Coker and Minchin 103
Carter and Boden 120
Cooper and Beardsell 139
Carroll and Thorold 178
Clark and Freeborough 201
Cochrane and Brahmin 221
" " Labourdonnais 221
Delman and Barnett 25
Dill and Gilberg 25
Dill and De Veaux 25
De Veaux and Dill 25
De Veaux and Roser 25
Dufresne and Anderssen 43
Devinck and Harrwitz 81
Devinck and Morphy 81
Down and Smith 102
Dudley and Long 179
Ensor, jun. and Macdonnell ... 139, 179
Earle and Potter 140
Earnshaw and Boden... 140
Ford and Blackburne... 60
Fisher and Thorold 119
Freeborough and Clark 201
Freeborough and Ashleigh 221
Gilberg and Dill 25
Gilberg and Barnett 25
Gravesend and Bedford 61
Giltay and Blackburne 158
Horwitz and Stevens 157
Horwitz and Devinck... 81
Jones and Blackburne... 120
Johnson and Nash 158
Kieseritzki and Anderssen 43
Long and Dudley 179
Labourdonnais and Cochrane 221
Macdonnell and Blackburne 8
Macdonnell and Ensor 139, 179
Minchin and Zukertort 9
Minchin and Thorold 83
Minchin and Coker 103
Murray and Brewer 9
Mackenzie and Mason 25
Mackenzie and Richmond 120
Mackenzie and Welles... 139
Mason and Mackenzie 25
Morphy and Anderssen 43
Morphy and Devinck 81
Martin and Thorold 83
Mitchell and Blackburne 120
Marriott and Stevenson 180, 200
Mocatta and Potter 200
Nash and Johnson 158
Perrin and Barnett 25
Potter and Stevens 60
Potter and Mocatta 200
Potter and Earle 140
Roser and De Veaux 25
Rowley and Thorold 178
Rowley and Skipworth 178

CHESS—*continued.*

Rudge and Thorold ... 179, 180
Richmond and Mackenzie ... 120
Robey and Beardsell ... 201
Stevens and Potter ... 60
Stevens and Horwitz ... 157
Steinkuhler and Burn ... 220
Simon and Blackburne ... 158
Skipworth and Rowley ... 178
Schull and A—— ... 103
Stevenson and Marriott ... 180, 200
Smith and Down ... 102
Steinkuhler and Burn ... 220
Thorold and Minchin ... 83
Thorold and Martin ... 83
Thorold and Fisher ... 119
Thorold and Carroll ... 178
Thorold and Rowley ... 178
Thorold and Rudge ... 179, 180
Thorold and Wayte ... 200
Wood and Blackburne ... 157
Welles and Mackenzie ... 139
Wilson and Blackburne ... 220
Zukertort and Minchin ... 9

OPENINGS:—

Games at Odds.

Pawn and moves ... 81, 119, 157 158
Pawn and 2 moves ... 60, 119, 139
Knight ... 176
Rook ... 140

King's Gambit.

Cochrane Gambit ... 221
King's Knight's Gambit ... 200
King's Bishop's Gambit 120, 25 (2), 43, 158, 200
Allgaier Gambit ... 9, 201. 221
Gambit declined ... 61, 120, 157

King's Knight's Game.

Evans Gambit ... 43 (2), 103, 120, 220
Giuoco Piano ... 139
Petroff's Defence ... 182, 158 (2). 201, 221
Ruy Lopez ... 103, 178(2), 179
King's Knight's Opening ... 9
Two Knights' Defence ... 140
Scotch Gambit ... 200
Kiezeritzky Gambit ... 120
Steintz Gambit ... 176
Centre Gambit ... (2) 182
French Game ... 25, 60, 220
Sicilian Defence ... 102, 119, 220
Irregular Openings ... 8
Mongredien Displacement ... 178

END GAMES.

Allies and Lowenthal ... 115, 116
Burden and " ... 115
Buckle and " ... 116
Dudley and " ... 115
Delta and " ... 116
Deacon and " ... 116
Ginseppi and " ... 24
Harwitz and " ... 23
" and " ... 24
Hampe and " ... 24
Henstein ... 23
Kennedy and " ... 23
Morphy and " ... 116
Ralli and " ... 116
Staunton and " ... 7
Sich and " ... 7
Williams and " ... 7
Wayte and " ... 7
Wyvil and " ... 7

Lebanon Herald PROBLEMS.

Brown ... 177
Brock ... 177
Babson ... 177
Baxter ... 177
Kidson ... 177
Pearson ... 177
Studd ... 177
Thomas ... 177
Taylor ... 177

SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS ... 4, 24, 61, 159, 180, 221

PROBLEMS.

Andrews and Pierce ... 6
Abbott ... 101, 117, 137, 156, 199, 219
Barlow ... 218
Benthner ... 56
Clark ... 26, 27, 42, 176, 199

CHESS—*continued.*

Callander ... 41, 198
Coates ... 56
Finlinson ... 56
Gilberg ... 218
Gubbins ... 79
Gunsberg ... 80
Healey ... 26
Hawkins ... 6
Kidson ... 5, 80, 100, 199
McArthur ... 5, 26, 49, 79, 101, 138, 156, 219
Meredith ... 27, 41
Pierce and Andrews ... 6
Pierce Jas. ... 6, 26, 79, 118, 156, 218
Pierce, W. T. ... 137, 156
Pott ... 27, 42
Studd ... 5, 27, 42, 56, 80, 100
Sunbury ... 41, 42, 118
Slater ... 79, 100, 176, 198, 199, 219
Thomas ... 5, 155, 176
Tarrant ... 100, 198, 218
Thursby ... 101
Taylor ... 117, 137, 155, 176
Wash ... 6, 80

MISCELLANEOUS CHESS.

A Yorkshire Reminiscence ... 23
A Brace of Chess Notes ... 40, 55, 78
A Provincial Chess Sketch ... 57
Chess by Telegraph ... 115
Chess at a Glance ... 154
The Lowenthal Bequest ... 174, 216
The Final Mate ... 196
John Cochrane ... 217
Earl of Ravensworth ... 217
Our Portrait Gallery ... 39, 217

OBITUARY.

John Cochrane ... 216

WHIST.

Jottings ... 12, 29, 46, 63, 105
A Whist Heresy ... 126, 181
A Country Sketch ... 85
A Good Hand ... 14
Brains *versus* Books and Brains ... 189
Brighton Club ... 64
" " Correction ... 87
Cutting for Partners ... 31
Ecce Iterum Dummy ... 202
How to Circumvent Your Partner ... 87
Is it a Revoke? ... 161, 184
Lewis-Cavendish Opinion on Whist ... 185
Matthews on Whist ... 122
Loo ... 223
Play Ace on a Knave ... 13, 30
Play or Pay ... 125
The Ever Green Peter ... 141
Weak Leads—Whist ... 203
Washington Club, Paris ... 14
Whist at the West End 85, 106, 124, 143, 162
Whist ... 184
Whist Match—Grosvenor Club *v.* Chelsea Club ... 205
Extracts—Whist at Our Club ... 14
" from a Woman Hater ... 66, 89
Hands ... 10, 44, 84
Additional Notes to Hand—No. 158 ... 10
" " " No. 159 ... 11
" " " No. 160 ... 11
" " " No. 162 ... 45
" " " No. 163 ... 45
" " " No. 161, 162, 163, 65
" " " No. 164 ... 84
" " " No 165, 166 ... 85
Double Dummy Problems—11, 28, 45, 52, 104, 121, 141, 160, 181, 202, 222
Double Dummy Solutions 11, 28, 45, 62, 104, 121, 160, 202, 222

POETRY.

A Word in Season ... 145
California, 1849 ... 121
The Faro Dealer's Story ... 47
Three-Handed Whist ... 145

OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.

Andersen, Herr A. ... 39
Crusnel ... 95
Lewis, F. H. ... 28
Wilson, Remington ... 149
Cochrane, John ... 217

SUNDRIES.

All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club. Laws of Match Games ... 49
As to Double Dummy Problems 134, 135 ... 85
British Museum Notes ... 70
Cavendish on Ecarte ... 144, 187
Card-playing in the Army ... 188
Drawing two trumps for one ... 225
Ecarte. The New Laws ... 164, 188
Gathering the Hand during Deal ... 47
Hunt's Round-cornered Cards ... 107
Letter from an Old Fogy ... 107
Plagiarism ... 33
Pembridge Letter ... 123
Reprehensible Conduct of Dummy 161, 186
Royal Robber ... 124
Spite ... 89
The American Cards ... 145
The *Field* and Ourselves ... 186

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Baccarat ... 18
Chess 18, 34, 50, 73, 94, 110, 130, 148, 168, 192, 208
Double Dummy ... 50, 130
Ecarte ... 34, 50, 74, 94, 148
Five Card Cribbage ... 34
Loo ... 168, 192
Piquet ... 34, 74, 94, 130, 148, 168, 192
Poker ... 47, 50, 74, 148, 168
Single Dummy ... 74, 110
Sixty-six ... 208
Whist 18, 34, 50, 73, 94, 110, 130, 148, 168, 192, 208

REVIEWS.

Ecarté. Cavendish ... 225

DRAMATIC NOTES.

May, 1877.—Changes in taste—Revivals at Easter—"Fame," Haymarket—"The Two Mothers," Duke's—"The Scuttle Ship," Olympic—"London Assurance," Prince of Wales's—"The Vicarage," Prince of Wales's—"Oxygen," Folly—"Pink Dominos," Criterion.

June.—Continued Absence of New Plays—"LyonsMail," Lyceum—"Mammon," Strand—"L'ami Fritz," Gaiety—The Westminster Aquarium.

August.—End of the Season—"Lady Audley's Secret," Olympic—"Stolen Kisses," Globe—The past and the coming Season—Theatrical charities.

October.—The Recess—"Golden Plough," Adelphi—"Brass," Haymarket—The Dramatic College—"Dead Secret," Lyceum—"The Moonstone," Olympic—"Guinea Gold," Princesses—"Liz," Opera Comique—"England," Drury Lane—The Folly Theatre.

November.—"Russia National," The Stage and the Church Congress at Croydon—The Critics and the Public—"Home of Darnley," Court—"Engaged," Haymarket—"An Unequal Match," Prince of Wales's—Low Comedians—"Musical Box," Gaiety—"Family Ties," Strand—"La Marjolaine," Royalty.

December.—Church and Stage—Stagnation—Revivals—The Queen's, (late National)—"Sardanapalus," Duke's—"The Omadhaun," Queen's—"The Sorcerer," Opera Comique.

January, 1878.—The Condition of Pantomime—Farcical Comedy—"The Grasshopper," Gaiety—"A Night of Terror," Folly—"The Turn of the Tide," Olympic.

February.—Pantomimes and Music Halls—"Diplomacy," Prince of Wales's—"Fatherland," Queen's—"A Fool and his Money," Globe—"Victims," Court.

March.—Changes—The Thousandth Night of "Our Boys"—The Amateur Pantomime at the Gaiety—Shakspearian Actresses—Miss Neilson as Viola—Miss Cavendish as Rosalind—"The Ne'er do Weel,"—Olympic—"Diplomacy," Strand—"Les Cloches de Corneville," Folly.

April.—"Scar on the Wrist," St. Jame's—"Herr Moritz," Ash Wednesday—A National Theatre—"Mr. Irving as Louis XI.," "The Vagabond," Olympic.

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1st JANUARY, 1878.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

CHESS doings in the metropolis during the past month have not been particularly eventful. The combatants in the City Tourney have been fighting, and most of them have become spectators. The results of the third round will be best shown by the fourth pairing which took place on the 21st ultimo, when Chance, sitting in a hat, decided that the following jousters were respectively to face each other in the ensuing contest, viz., in Division A, playing for first and second prizes, Huckvale *v.* F. W. Lord, Beardsell *v.* Eschwege, Potter *v.* Harris or Manning, Botterill or Bussy *v.* Hoon or Long. The first named pair are both third class players, but Mr. Huckvale will have to give his opponent the move in each game. This particular combat will be watched with much interest in metropolitan circles, but it is generally considered that the advantage received by Mr. Lord is too slight to make it very likely that he can defeat Mr. Huckvale, who is looked upon by good judges as the strongest representative of his class in the present tournament, while some are inclined to imagine that he ought to have been left as originally placed by the handicappers, that is to say, in the second class. However, Mr. Lord, possibly because he composes problems no more, has of late become very strong, and he goes on improving. He will undoubtedly make a good fight, and tipsters might easily tip wrongly in his case. Messrs. Beardsell and Eschwege are both in the first section of the third class. They will, therefore play upon even terms. Mr. Eschwege is the fastest player in the tourney, unless we except Mr. Delannoy, who indeed could not well be outdone in that respect. Mr. Beardsell is—well, not to put too fine a point on it, he has not yet received the surname accorded to Bajazet. However, we understand that he intends to demand sand glasses so as to prevent his quick-sighted adversary from having any just cause of complaint. The time limit is twenty moves per hour, and if anything should happen to create surprise in Bermondsey, there are some who will glance inquiringly at the nether bulb, wherein if they see a heap of sand men will look knowingly at each other and murmur "just so." Mr. Potter waits for Messrs. Harris and Manning to fight out their duel. He will have to give either of them the Knight. They are both in the first section of their class. Mr. Botterill is in the fourth class first section. He will receive Pawn and move from Mr. Hoon, or play upon even terms with Mr. Long. Mr. Bussy is in the first section of the third class. In Division B, playing for third and fourth prizes, the following combatants have been paired together, viz., Mr. Israel 4B *v.* Mr. George 5A; Mr. Clarke 4B *v.* Mr. Walthew 4A; Mr. Hopkinson 5A or Mr. Carter 5A *v.* Mr. Earle 5A; Mr. Heywood 3B *v.* Mr. Kindell 4B, or Mr. Meller 5A. Mr. Heywood is another deserter from the ranks of the composers, and curiously enough his play also shows manifest signs of improvement.

The various local clubs of the metropolis have been making good use of their time since we chronicled their doings last month. The Athenæum are again well to the fore. They have played three more matches, and in two of them were successful. So far, therefore, the season has been propitious to them, for victory has favoured them five times, declared against them only twice, and refused to say anything either way on another occasion, making eight matches already played by the Athenæum this winter, and we are informed that they have fourteen more contests still on hand—namely, four in January, five in February, and five in the two next months. The match in which honours were divided was against the Gresham. It was mentioned in our last number, the result then depending on an unfinished game, which being afterwards referred to one of the strong players of the City Club, was by him adjudged to the Athenæum, so that they drew that match, the score being $3\frac{1}{2}$ on each side. An interesting fact in connection with the Athenæum remains to be mentioned—viz., that it has been the means of bringing that amiable veteran, Mr. Horwitz, into the field again. He played amongst the Camden Road representatives against the North London Club on the 8th of December, having to concede to Mr. Stevens the odds of Pawn and two moves. This game, which ended in a draw, has been sent to us for publication, and will be found further on.

The Eclectic is another energetic club, and it possesses an indefatigable secretary in Mr. G. H. Gibbs. Needless, however, to state both facts, for one involves the other. The Eclectic have played four matches in

addition to those recorded by us last month, with the result that they won two, lost one, and drew one. Further particulars concerning the doings of these and other metropolitan clubs we reserve for another page.

As one of the chief events of the past month we must refer to the match between the Liverpool and Manchester Chess Clubs, which took place on the 8th of December, at the Palatine, Cable Street, Liverpool. These two towns, which have always been the headquarters of Provincial Chess, are at the present time especially noticeable for the many strong players which each is able to boast. If we mistake not, Liverpool has hitherto won the majority of matches, but we are not able to state in what proportion. Perhaps its very zealous secretary would kindly furnish us with statistics on this head, in order that we may place at the disposal of our readers information which they will certainly consider interesting. The present contest was generously made accessible to Chess players as such, whether members of either Club or otherwise, and it was watched with much zest by a large number of spectators, among whom may be mentioned Mr. Blackburne, who came with his Manchester friends. There were ten players on each side, and notwithstanding that Mr. Burn played for Liverpool, with such effect as might be expected from him, no tale of defeat was carried back to impatient Irwell, for out of sixteen games each side won seven and two were drawn. Play commenced at about half-past two in the afternoon, and came to an end by seven o'clock. The players were then entertained at dinner, the company numbering nearly forty, Dr. Sinclair, President, and Mr. Kidson, Vice-President of the Liverpool Club respectively occupying the chair and vice-chair. After the "customaries," came toasts to the rival clubs, and then the "Visitors," for whom Mr. Blackburne replied. There was likewise a toast to Mr. Thomas Whitehead, the Honorary Secretary of the Liverpool Club, than which no honour could have been better deserved considering the excellent manner in which he had carried out all the arrangements made for the success of the day's event. Mr. Whitehead, in responding, suggested the formation of a Lancashire Chess Association, an idea which seems well worth ventilating, for of all counties—excluding Middlesex—Lancaster possesses the most Chess talent. We learn that Manchester and Liverpool intend to have another trial of strength at the end of the season, the former town being then the scene of action, and that for the future there will be two annual home and home matches. The following is a copy of the score sheet:—

	Liverpool.	Won.	Drawn.	Manchester.	Won.
1	Mr. A. Burn	2	0	Mr. E. H. Wood	0
2	„ Schull	0	1	„ H. Heap	0
3	„ J. Soul	0	0	„ H. Jones	2
4	„ Wellington	1	0	„ J. Fish	0
5	„ C. Soul	0	0	„ Von Zaberu	2
6	„ Dufresne	1	0	„ W. Jones	1
7	"Nemo"	0	0	„ Giltay	1
8	Mr. Ferguson	0	1	„ Boyer	0
9	„ Allaire	1	0	General Vialls	1
10	„ Wood	2	0	Mr. Wilson	0
		7	2		7

Mr. Blackburne has been amongst his own people, and has let them see that he is still what he was in his own department of the game. On the 28th of November he came to Bradford, and though, unlike Cæsar, he did *not* see, yet he conquered. Eight strong players contended against him simultaneously, whereof five were defeated, two were fortunate enough to draw, and one, more felicitous still, scored a win. That solitary victor should be proud of his achievement, for Mr. Blackburne lost no other blindfold game during his northern visit. He tried on the 1st of December what eight adepts of the Manchester Chess Club could do against him, but five of them had to admit that their opponent could successfully give them the odds of his eyes, the remaining three not being able to effect more than draws, and probably being well satisfied with that result. The next day but one, viz., on the 3rd of December, Mr. Blackburne put in an appearance at the Church Club of Manchester, and there five kings rendered their homage to him, the other two monarchs being conducted to the box, not victorious, but at any rate not defeated. This particular performance was over in about three hours. We have thus 23 blindfold games played by Mr. Blackburne against strong opponents, and all within the short period of six days, out of which number he won 15, drew 7, and lost only 1. Three of these games appear in our present number, two have lately been published in *Land and Water*, two more in the *Illustrated London News*, and another in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic*. These eight games are excellent specimens of Mr. Blackburne's blindfold style. All of them are sprightly, and some very brilliant. They abound in bold, happy conceptions, and are agreeably short—a characteristic feature the latter. We have heard him estimate his average at 25 moves per game, and very likely that would be about the figure. Altogether, both by quality of play and successful results, Mr. Blackburne during his late visit to the north has more than maintained his previous high reputation as a blindfold specialist.

It will be remembered that we alluded last month to the match between Miss Rudge and Mr. Thorold at Knight odds. The lady player was then behindhand, the score being five to three against her. This, which might have had a depressing effect, has apparently operated as a stimulant. Six more games have been played and the odds giver has lost five of them. The score now stands thus: Miss Rudge eight, Mr. Thorold six, with

no draws. The gentleman player, who we must say shows a most generous disposition in voluntarily sending us these particulars, commences his letter with the statement that he is "sorry to have to report," etc. We are afraid he will not meet with much sympathy anywhere, and if from anyone, not from us. One of these games has been placed at our disposal, and we propose to publish the same next month.

The election of permanent officials for the British Chess Problem Association has taken place, with the following result:—Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. T. Pierce; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Paul Taylor. Committee, Messrs. Abbott, Andrews, Duffy, Finlinson, Grimshaw, Kidson, A. Cyril Pearson, and J. Pierce, M.A., also Messrs. Callander, Coates, Thomas, and Major White (C. W., of Sunbury). The four last-named gentlemen being next in order to those actually elected, and receiving an equality of votes, were, in pursuance of power reserved, added by the Committee to their body. Messrs. Andrews and Abbott were appointed Judges, and Mr. Duffy Umpire in the Tourney of the Association announced by us last month. The Committee desire to render more explicit one point of their programme, viz., that no competitor will receive more than one prize, excepting possibly in the case of that offered by the "Press." The members may like to know that all the voting papers except six were duly returned, a proof being thus afforded of the Association speaking with its full voice at this election. The voting for Treasurer and Secretary, we are given to understand, was nearly unanimous.

We have been put in possession of a few further particulars concerning the Grantham Chess Congress, which, as announced in our last, was to commence on the 31st of December, and consequently is now in course of progress. For the First Class Tourney the entries have been fewer than was anticipated. The following are the names:—Rev. J. Coker; Mr. Sydney Ensor, of Nottingham; and Mr. W. Ensor, junior, of London; the Revs. C. E. Ranken, A. C. Rowley, and A. B. Skipworth; and Mr. E. Thorold, of Bath. It must be admitted that the Chess community at large would have felt increased interest in the competition for Prince Leopold's Cup if some of the other members of the General Committee had found themselves able to enter, as, for instance, the Rev. J. Owen, Professor Wayte, Mr. Jenkin, of Glasgow, Mr. Minchin, Mr. J. O. Howard Taylor, etc. We see no mention in the rules of any power reserved by the committee to add names after the 15th of December, so presume the above list may be looked upon as complete. We are informed that the entries for the other classes are more numerous. The following are the special prizes:—£5 by H. R. H. Prince Leopold; £5 given by the President, the Earl Brownlow; £5 5s. by the Rev. J. Greene, of Clifton, for a displacement competition, and £2 2s. by Mr. J. O. Howard Taylor, of Norwich, for the finest or most brilliant game played during the meeting. Altogether it must be allowed that most liberal arrangements have been made for rewarding those who have entered, and that there are good reasons for expecting an enjoyable as well as successful gathering.

We have received a copy of the rules of the new Chess Club established at Chichester. On perusing them we find that ladies as well as gentlemen may be members. The subscription is 5s. per annum. The meetings take place every Monday evening during the Chess term. A club record is to be kept in order to add interest to the ordinary play. The players on this record are so many champions. Their object is to keep their places and get higher. No. 2 tries to make himself No. 1, but at the same time has to take care that he does not become transformed into No. 3. There are, of course, regulations as to the challenges and matches between the players of the record. We learn that the number of members already reaches between thirty and forty. A special meeting for the election of President took place on the 10th of December, and the Hon. R. Denman was unanimously chosen for that office. Mr. G. R. Downer, of Runcton, is Secretary, and the Committee consists of Messrs. C. Ballard, O. Lloyd, W. M'Arthur, J. W. Moore, and E. E. Street. The attendance on the nights of meeting is very good, and a tournament among the members is progressing satisfactorily. Chichester has set a good example, and one to be followed. The Chess players of the southern counties are at present little more than a concourse of atoms. Brighton used to have a Chess Club, but whether there be one now in that town is more than any one knows. If there be any such association in London-on-the-Sea, its light remains hidden under a quite impervious bushel. The important town of Portsmouth we know, for a certainty, does not, and we believe never could boast of a Chess club Yet, just the place one would suppose, with the many officers, military and naval, living there. Its late mayor is a lover of the game, and there is Mr. Burt, resident at Southsea. We wonder no one has yet suggested to those gentlemen that the formation of a Chess club in their town would be a good work. The same might be said for Southampton, which we believe is equally desolate.

The Chess column in the *Derby and Derbyshire Gazette* will on the 3rd inst. be transferred to the *Derbyshire Advertiser*. The energetic editor expresses his belief that this alteration will materially conduce to the spread of Chess in the neighbourhood of Derby. The *Advertiser* has a very large circulation and in many respects will be a first class medium for chess players. That such will be the case we have no doubt whatever. Any column edited by the antagonist of the *Cleveland Voice* is sure to be all that could be desired in that respect. Wherever he pitches his tent, there will not fail him a sympathising band of Chessists, and though some of them will "not in all cases" subscribe to his opinions, having regard more particularly to those unlawful sports, judge baiting, and the worrying of prize winners, still they will not cease to admire a vigorous pen and clear ink. Here we may observe that our Derby contemporary has lately knocked at the wrong door. We were not in that house at all. "Duals" we neither banned nor blessed last month. "Threatened checks" gave forth no note, whether of harmony or discord. They were as mute as that played out harp in Tara's modern days. The merits and demerits of the Centennial Problems were not in our minds. We merely laid down the principle that prevails in other matters, viz.,

that where there is a judge properly constituted, his decision is to be submitted to without murmuring. If the umpire says Grace's leg is before the wicket, Grace must lay down his bat. If a handicapper adjust weights, the horses must be weighted accordingly. If examiners consider one man more entitled than another to be first wrangler, the second man must be content with second honours, and so on *ad libitum*. There may be some reason why Chess should be the sweet exception proving the general rule, but we have not discovered it. Our contemporary differs. He is within his right, but he is not entitled to carry us further than we went. In stating that we refrained from criticising, our limits were clearly marked out. Any attempt to convert that statement into a defence of duals, or of anything else, must be artificial upon the face of it. We are not advocates either one way or the other, and that, because advocacy has no province after judgment. If there be an appeal let the appellate powers be invoked, but if not, let the pleader go home and take his chop in peace.

We have received "A Chess Century," a book of problems contributed to the *Lebanon Herald* Tourney, all two movers. The price is one dollar, and the publisher R. L. C. White & Co., Lock Box H, Lebanon, Tennessee, U. S.

The *Chess Players' Chronicle* has set on foot a Handicap Correspondence Tourney, to consist of seventeen players, with four prizes, viz., £5, £3, £2, and £1. The Editor and co-operators of the *Chronicle* will handicap the entrants by dertermining a value, to be assigned to the won game of each player. Thus A may win a game, and it will count to him as $\frac{8}{9}$ths, or B may be victorious, and have the satisfaction of scoring $1\frac{1}{7}$th; but these two players may draw with each other; if they do, no difficulty arises, for in that case A scores $\frac{8}{9}$ths and B $\frac{4}{7}$ths. One of the advantages of a tournament conducted on such bases is, that the players and all concerned will obtain some knowledge of the mysteries of arithmetic. When Messrs. A, B, C, D, and so on up to Q, each with his different fractional appraisement, have played all their games, one with the other, there will be, as it seems to us (especially considering the disturbing element of draws) rather a complicated sum to work out. Moreover, the players must look out as they go along. Any of them who at school may have cooked his vulgar fractions, is liable now to be punished for the sin of his youth. We shall watch the progress of this tourney with some curiosity. As an attempt to solve the difficult problem of Chess handicapping, it deserves respect, even if destined not to succeed as such. While importing the possibility of, we do not prophecy, failure; still, we have our doubts. The average mind does not delight in complications; moreover, there is something unsatisfactory in only winning the fraction of a game, and again, it seems to us that the winner will scarcely know what he has gained. The value of any game would seem not easy to determine. If we criticise, it is not as finding fault, but because novelties invite criticism.

We see by the *Chess Players' Chronicle* that at a meeting of the Bury and West Suffolk Chess Club, a handsome dining-room clock was presented to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Francis Ford, by his brother members "in testimony of their appreciation of his valuable services" during his tenure of the secretarial office, since the club was established in 1867. From the speech of Mr. R. Craske, the President, in making the presentation, it would appear that the project was most heartily taken up as soon as mooted. This is as it should be: any one devoting himself for such a long period of time as ten years to fulfilling the duties of an honorary office, performs a rare act of disinterested merit, and such as most decidedly calls for an acknowledgement from those who have benefited by his services.

From the *Glasgow Herald* we learn that the handicap tournament at the Glasgow Central Club has terminated with the following result:—First prize, Mr. Court; second prize, Mr. Young; third prize, Mr. McCulloch. We also see by the same journal that on the 15th of December Mr. Jenkin played nine games simultaneously, and without sight of the board, at the Helensburgh Chess Club. The contest lasted four and a half hours, by which time Mr. Jenkin had won two, lost three, and drawn four games.

In pursuance of an arrangement made between the *Hartford Weekly Times* and the *Glasgow News of the Week*, the last-named paper has been publishing the moves so far made in one or two of the games in the correspondence match now going on between Great Britain and America. The *News* invites criticism on such of these games as they may publish, but quite properly will not allow any interference with coming possibilities. The irrevocable Past is, of course, fair game enough, but sometimes it is in the secrets of the Future. However, there can be no doubt that every care will be taken to prevent the players receiving any assistance from published comments. The *News* also announces the termination of a correspondence match between six of its Scotch and a similar number of its English readers. History, so far as Flodden Field, is concerned, did not on this occasion repeat itself, for Messrs. Allan, Kennedy, Latta, Lyle, Molson, and Nasmith, representing Scotland, scored five games, while Messrs. Farrow, Palmer, M'Arthur, Woods, Stranger, and Stevens, fighting for England, scored only three games, there being also four draws. Moreover, one of the Northeners—viz., Mr. Lyle, was unable to play, so that his two games were forfeited to the Southerners, and might not otherwise have been lost.

The *Nottingham Express* states that a Chess Club has been established at New Basford. The first President is the Rev. J. F. McCallan, M.A., vice President, Mr. C. Spray, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. H. Spray; Committee, Messrs. Johnson, Marriott, and Mozley. The new club has several strong players as members, and is open to play a game by correspondence with any club of moderate strength.

We observe with great pleasure that the Chess department of the *Philadelphia Intelligencer* has been resumed, and we trust that it will not any more be discontinued. It appears, as before, under the editorship of Mr. G. Reichelm, and he has managed to bring out a very good number. Eight problems appear on diagrams, each having its distinctive feature, and one of them is calculated to alarm the ordinary solver, for therein White is required to mate in 133 moves, only moving his King. There is also a learned disquisition upon the Eight Queens problem, and likewise a curious calculation founded upon the editor's MSS. collection of the best problems of all times and countries, showing the percentages of pieces making the first move in two, three, and four-move problems. As might be expected, the Queen is far ahead in two movers, being as much as 50 per cent., while the King's proportion is the least, namely 7 per cent. The Queen makes first move in 34 per cent. of three movers, the Rook coming next with 25. But in four movers the Rook takes priority with 26 per cent. the Knight being 20, the Bishop 18, and the Queen 15 per cent.

The *Turf Field and Farm* announces that a gentleman residing in New York has promised to give a prize of twenty dollars in gold to the composer of the winning set in the tournament of the American Chess and Problem Association, providing the same shall have have been published in the *Turf Field and Farm* Chess column. The same generous donor is about to arrange a Consultation match at the Café International, with a prize of 100 dollars, the players on each side to be named by him. Our contemporary also gives information of a new club, which has been organised down town, bearing the title of "The New York Stock Exchange Chess Club." It already numbers upwards of forty members, and its rooms are understood to be in the Stock Exchange Building. The *Sunday Morning Voice* Problem Tourney has concluded, and the prizes have been adjudged by Mr. G. E. Carpenter as follows:—First prize, F. W. Martindale; second prize, S. Loyd; third prize, Wm. A. Shinkman. There were 91 competitions and of these 53 were sound. Mr. X. Hawkins receives the first honourable mention. The *New York Clipper* calls attention to the fact that the 5th in this class "very fine" is from Greece, by Dr. Dionisio Melissinos. The *Clipper* asks for a copy of this problem, which request we hope will be granted as we also should like to see it. The *Hartford Weekly Times* tells us of the first meeting of the Hartford Chess Circle since the summer vacation. Mrs. Gilbert was chosen for President, Messrs. Belden and Burnes as the Secretaries. In the opinion of the *Weekly Times* the Circle numbers more members than any Chess club in the United States, and if that supposition should prove not according to the facts let the facts look out, for they will have to do homage "inside of a month." The *Scientific American* states that the New Chess Association has a plan under consideration for holding a grand tournament to select the strongest player to represent America at the proposed International Congress, to be held in connection with the Paris Exhibition. According to the *Sunday Morning Voice* Mr. James Mason will put in an appearance at this congress. We presume *La Strategie*, now overdue, will contain something definite concerning the contest in question. The *Saint Louis Daily Globe Democrat* gives us the result of the Canadian Chess Association tournament—viz., Mr. H. A. Howe, 8½ games; Mr. E. Sanders, 8; and Mr. E. B. Holt, 7½. The possible score was 9. The same paper gives us particulars concerning a Challenge Cup to be competed for by the members of the Saint Louis Chess Club. The winner must hold the Cup, not only against members, but also against non-members resident in the City, an increased entrance fee being charged in the latter case. Who can hold the trophy for two years will become its permanent owner.

According to our Australian exchanges, the *Leader*, *Town and Country Journal*, *Adelaide Observer*, *Sydney Mail*, *Williamstown Chronicle*, and The *Week*, of Brisbane, Chess seems to be going on all right at the Antipodes, but there is nothing new to report, save that the Trophy competition of the Hamilton Chess Club was, as we understand from the *Chronicle*, to commence on the 29th of October. The Trophy Committee met on the 22nd of October, and it was stated amidst applause that the necessary amount for the Cup had been subscribed. The designs for this prize were exhibited at the meeting, and one of them chosen. The Cup will be a handsome silver one, elegantly chased, and adorned with appropriate Chess emblems.

The following is a record of the matches played by the local Metropolitan Chess Clubs during the last four or five weeks:—Eclectic *v.* St. George's Institute on 26th of November, won by Eclectic, score 10 games to 2, and 1 drawn. Eclectic *v.* Excelsior, at Canonbury Tower on December 1st, the latter won by 2 games. Excelsior *v.* Ibis, at Camberwell Hall on December 5th, drawn match. Old Change *v.* Gresham, on December 5th, the former won by three games. Bermondsey *v.* Railway Clearing House on December 5th, won by the former, who were four games ahead. The three strongest players on each side made draws. Eclectic *v.* City of London Chess Club (Rook class), on December 7th, drawn match, each side winning eight games, with two draws. North London *v.* Athenæum, at the Athenæum, Camden Road, on December 8th, won by the former, score 10 to 6, and 1 draw. Mr. Horwitz played in this match. He gave to Mr. Stevens, of the North London, Pawn and two moves. Greenwich *v.* Peckham, on December 8th, won by the former score 5 to 3, with 2 draws, being their second victory against the same adversaries. We shall expect the Greenwich Club, under its new Secretary, Mr. Piper, to make a good show in future in the Metropolitan Chess world. Eclectic *v.* Gresham on December 12th, victory favoured the former by 5 games to 2. Athenæum *v.* Kentish Town Institute, at Camden Road, on December 15th, the Athenæum won by 7 games to 6. Jewish Chess Club *v.* Bermondsey, at the rooms of the latter, on December 15th, the Jewish team was composed of Messrs. Mocatta,

Gunzberg, Louis Cohen, Hausmeister, Harris, Perez, Samuels and Israel. The South Eastern representatives were Messrs. Weaver, Beardsell, Watts Philp, J. Holeman, Cooper, A. Holeman, and Huttly. The Jewish players were victorious by four games to two with two draws. We presume that Bermondsey will seek to be revenged for this severe defeat. Railway Clearing House *v.* Shaftesbury, at Bedford Institute, on December 17th—won by the Railway players with a score of six to three and two draws. Athenæum *v.* Ibis, at 62, Ludgate Hill, on December 20th—the Athenæum representatives won nine games and lost only one. We have also heard of two other Club matches during the past month, viz., North London *v.* Young Men's Catholic Association, won by the former; and North London *v.* Bermondsey, which was drawn. The unfinished match between the Athenæum and the Gresham, referred to in our last issue, was drawn in consequence of the game left undecided being adjudged as a win for the Athenæum. For some of the above items we are indebted to the *Holloway Press*, which journal carries out in a most able and satisfactory manner the mission it has assumed, of being the organ and medium of the local metropolitan Chess Clubs. Its historical notices for the past month have related to the Gresham, Shaftesbury, Ibis, and Old Change Clubs.

We have but little space left to refer to a most interesting event, viz., the celebration, at Mouflet's Hotel, Newgate Street, on the 29th ultimo, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the day which ushered the City of London Chess Club into existence. There was a supper, and it was excellent. Mr. Gastineau occupied the chair, and Mr. Manning the other seat of honour. After the meal there were toasts, songs, and recitations. Everyone seemed to enjoy himself, and there was no flagging from the commencement, which was at half-past six, to the necessary end of all things at midnight. One good quality can in no wise be denied to the City Club. It understands well how to be festive.

Mr. Duffy will soon be amongst us again. A letter from him states that he was to start from New York on the 26th of December, and expected to arrive in England about the 6th or 7th of January. It is very likely that he will be accompanied by Mr. H. E. Bird, in which case we presume the latter will publish his work on "The Openings," in London.

CHESS AT A GLANCE*

Is the attractive endorsement of a little shilling book now lying before us. Full of hope we look inside, and on the title-page find these remarkable words—"Chess Typically; or the Game at a Glance." The adverb sounds strangely. Has it never been wedded to a past participle, and why divorced? However, to the merits. First, there is the price, and thereupon we must cordially say that Chess-players often derive from the expenditure of a shilling less both of amusement and instruction than this little work is capable of affording. So far as instruction is concerned this statement of ours will not be considered as a particularly high recommendation of "Chess Typically," and in truth we cannot say very much for it in that respect, but for supplying amusement we will back it to any amount against all and every text book with which we are acquainted. We will pass over the opening directions, more especially as the author does not seem to rely upon them, for he states that the game "may be acquired by the novel means employed, without even knowing the moves—by repetition easily learnt." The "novel means" are poetry appealing to the ear, and diagrams which address the eye, as thus:—

"1. White moves: King's Pawn two squares advance.

2. Reply is ditto (as in France)."

Should it be imagined from the second line that the author refers to the French Defence, there is the diagram to correct any such erroneous impression. We found the use of these optical guides further on in the game, for on coming to the line—"Queen before King's Knight must shunt," we, in our ignorance, supposed that the Queen was to be placed at K 2 facing the adverse Knight, which had taken the K P, whereas, on the contrary, her destination was Kt 4. However, we will give the entire game as shown by the diagrams, one to each move:—1 P to K 4, P to K 4, 2 P to Q B 3, Kt to K B 3, 3 P to Q 4, Kt takes P, 4 P takes P, B to B 4, 5 Q to Kt 4, Kt takes K B P, 6 Q takes Kt P, R to B sq, 7 P to Q Kt 4, B to Kt 3, 8 B to K Kt 5, P to K B 3, 9 P takes P, R to B 2, 10 Q to Kt 8 (ch), R covers, and then, as the author observes, "Pawn forward moves—hurrah! Checkmate." If we be now asked to go on, our reply must be that we cannot, having come to the end. The book is a trifle; the author neither means nor does any harm. Of his poetry we cannot say much, save that it is very entertaining and meritoriously brief, there being but two dozen lines in all. The printing and diagrams are extremely good.

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* "Chess Typically; or the Game at a Glance." By H. J. Wigley. Sold at T. Sherwin's, 527 New Oxford Street; or of the Author, 17 Kilburn Square, N.W.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. 978.—By J. PAUL TAYLOR.

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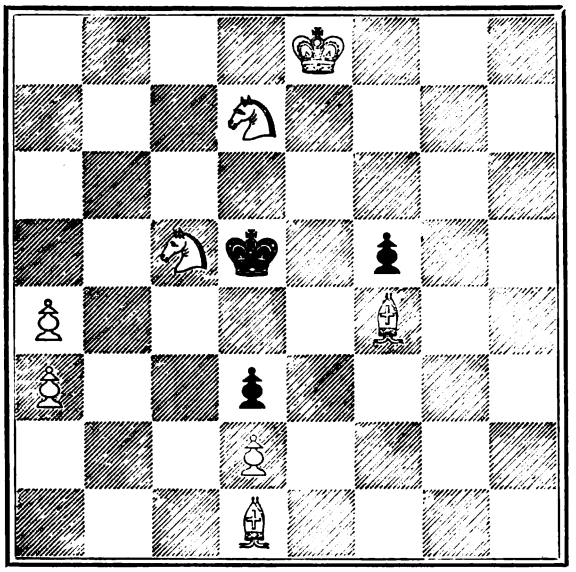
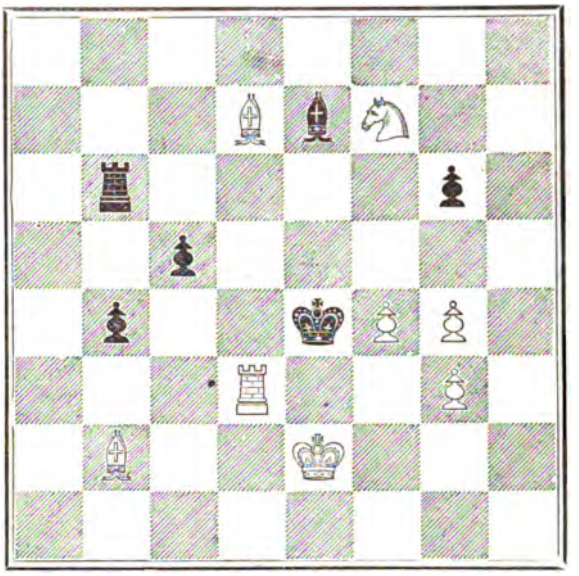


WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 979.—By J. H. BLACKBURNE.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 980.—By S. H. THOMAS.

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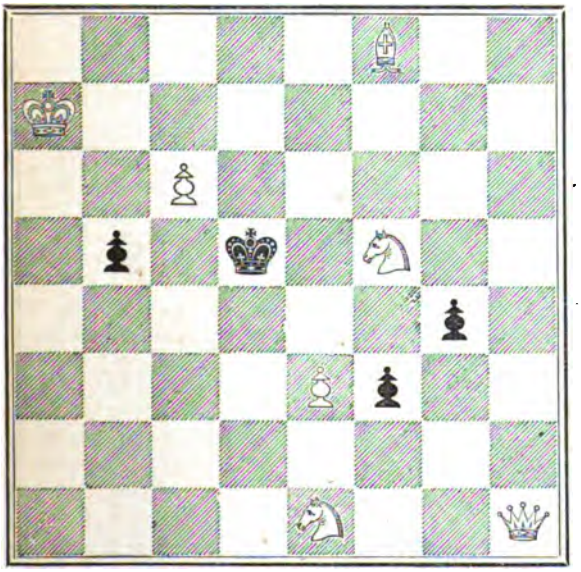

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 981.—By F. E. LAMB.

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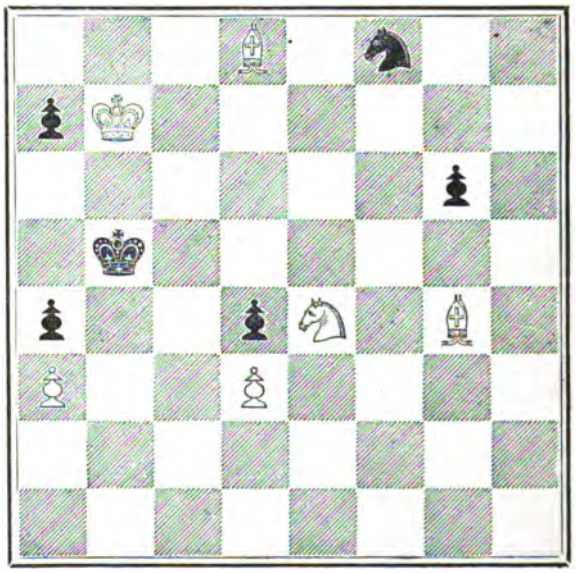

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. 982.—By Sergt.-Major McARTHUR.

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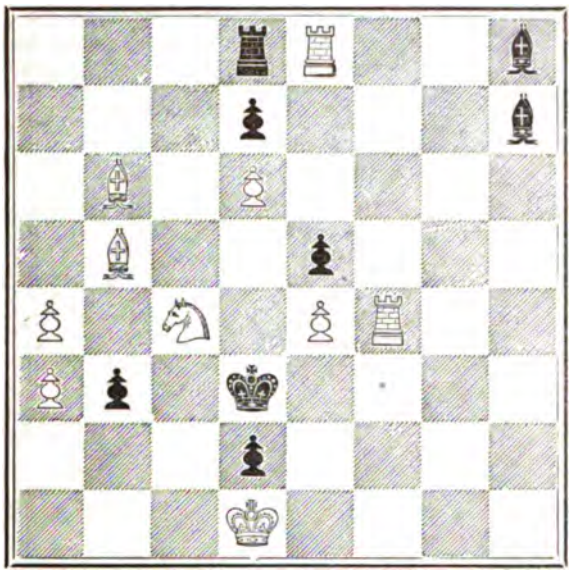

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 983.—By W. T. PIERCE.

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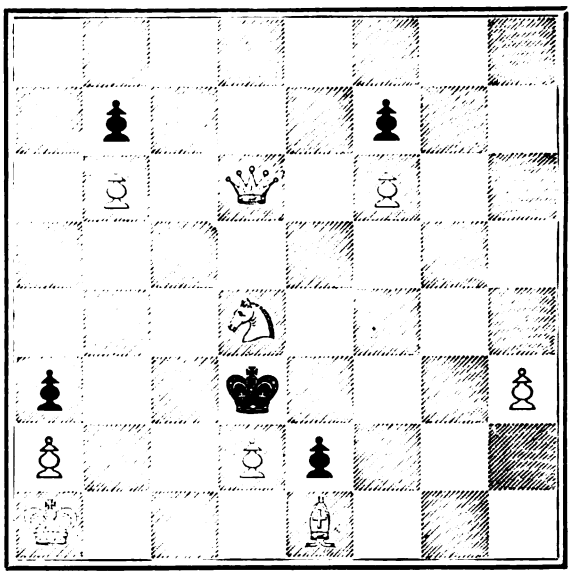

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 984.—By J. W. ABBOTT.

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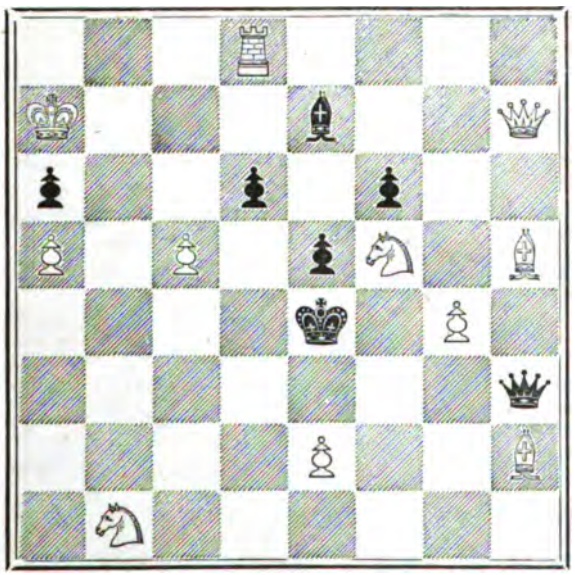

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 985.—By J. PIERCE, M.A.

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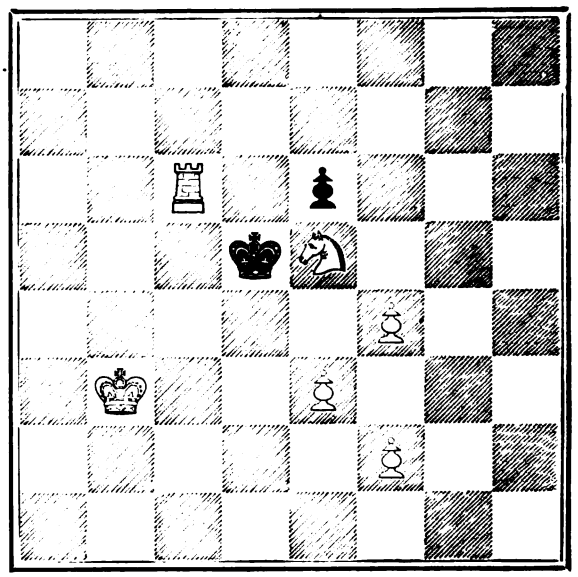

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

GAMES.

Noted by W. N. Potter.

GAME 36.

Played in the match between the Athenæum and North London Clubs on 8th December last, Mr. Horwitz playing for the former, and giving Pawn and two moves to the strongest representative of the latter Club.

(Remove Black's K B P.)

White. Mr. S. J. Stevens.	Black. Mr. Horwitz.
1 P to K 4	
2 P to Q 4	2 P to K 3
3 Q to R 5 (ch) (a)	3 P to Kt 3
4 Q to K 5	4 Kt to K B 3
5 B to K Kt 5	5 B to Kt 2
6 B to Q Kt 5 (b)	6 Castles (c)
7 Kt to K B 3	7 P to Q B 3
8 B to Q 3	8 P to Q 3
9 Q to Kt 3	9 Q to Kt 3
10 P to Kt 3	10 P to B 4
11 B takes Kt	11 B takes B
12 P to K 5	12 P takes P (d)
13 P takes P	13 B to Kt 2
14 Castles	14 Kt to B 3
15 P to B 3	15 Q to Q sq (e)
16 B to B 2	16 P to Kt 3
17 R to Q sq (f)	17 Q to K 2
18 Q Kt to Q 2	18 B to Kt 2
19 Kt to K 4	19 R takes Kt (g)
20 P takes R	20 Kt takes P
21 P to K B 4	21 Kt to B 2
22 R to Q 2	22 Kt to R 3
23 Kt to Kt 5	23 Q to B 3
24 Q R to Q sq	24 Kt to B 4
25 Q to R 3 (h)	25 P to K R 3
26 B takes Kt	26 K P takes B (i)
27 R to Q 6	27 Q to K 2
28 R to K 6 (j)	28 Q to Q B 2
29 R takes K Kt P	29 P takes Kt
30 Q to R 6	30 R to K sq (k)
31 R takes K Kt P (l)	31 Q to K 2
32 R takes B (ch)	32 Q takes R ch
33 Q takes Q (ch)	33 K takes Q
34 R to Q 7 (ch)	34 K to Kt 3
35 R takes B	35 K to R 4
36 R takes R P (m)	36 K to Kt 5
37 R to R 4	37 K to B 6
38 P to K R 4	38 R to K 8 ch
39 K to R 2	39 R to K B 8
40 R to R 7	40 R takes P ch
41 K to Kt sq	41 R to Kt 7 ch
42 K to R sq	42 R to Kt 5
43 R to R 7	43 R takes B P
44 R to R 8	44 R to Kt 5
45 R to R 5	45 P to B 5
46 R to R 6	46 R to Kt 7
47 R takes P	47 R takes P
48 R to Kt 7	48 K to Kt 6
49 R to Kt 7 ch	49 K takes P
40 P to Kt 4	50 P takes P
51 P takes P	51 R to Q Kt 7
52 R to Kt 8	52 R takes P
53 K to Kt 2	53 R to Kt 6
54 R to Kt 7	54 R to Kt 6 ch
55 R takes R	55 P takes R
56 K to Kt sq	Drawn

(a) Mr. Stevens knows all about B to Q 3 being better. He evidently prefers fresh pastures.

(b) Has a queer aspect. However, serves its immediate purpose.

(c) Mr. Horwitz, no doubt, looked at 6 P to B 3, followed by 7 P to Q 3. Appears to be no particular gain hanging to that continuation.

(d) To my thinking B to Kt 2 at once is more chanceful.

(e) Now, I should have preferred Q to to B 2. My old friend will excuse my being critical. Can scarcely help it in games at these odds, having played so many of them myself.

(f) Kt to R 3, with the object of bringing the Q R to Q sq, ought to be stronger.

(g) The sacrifice of the Exchange often temptingly arises in games of this kind, the stronger player being conscious all the time of the sin of unsoundness, but hoping to profit by it.

(h) There is something to be said, for B takes Kt at once. The Queen would have to retake, and thereupon, R to Q 7 would apparently be rather embarrassing for Black.

(i) Kt P takes B is preferable.

(j) Mr. Stevens remarks that Kt to K 6 is better, which is true enough, but R to Q 7 looks to me stronger still, *e.g.*:

28 R to Q 7	28 Q to K sq best (Q to K 7 loses).
29 R takes Q B	29 P takes Kt
30 Q R to Q 7	30 Q to K 8 ch
31 K to Kt 2	31 Q to K 5 ch
32 Q to B 3	32 Q takes Q ch
33 K takes Q	33 P to Kt 6 ch
34 K to Kt 3	34 B takes P

35 R to Q 6 and the game is easily won, for Black's Pawns will fall like autumn leaves.

(k) Mr. Stevens here makes another note, viz: that R to K B sq is better. Possibly so, but in that case Q takes Kt P would be strong as threatening (after first moving K to B sq) Q R to Q 6. Black's best move in the present position, according to my judgment, is 30 B to B 6.

(l) White ought to win his piece back while he can. This move gives the opponent the opportunity of playing R to K 2. True Mr. Horwitz does not avail himself of that chance; indeed, the hero of many fights scarcely shews at his best in this game.

(m) End play is rarely understood save by first class players, and by them not to any alarming extent. Still I wonder Mr. Stevens did not see how effective a move P to B 3 would be. At the other side of the board all that was clear enough we may be quite sure.

GAME 37.

On the 1st of December, Mr. Blackburne played eight blindfold games simultaneously at the Manchester Chess Club, and the following are three of them.

Danish Gambit declined.

White. Mr. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. E. Hall Wood.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P takes P
3 P to Q B 3	3 P to Q 6 (a)
4 B takes P	4 P to Q 4
5 P to K 5	5 B to Q B 4
6 Kt to B 3	6 B to K 3
7 Castles	7 Kt to K 2
8 K to R sq	8 P to K R 3
9 Kt to Q 4	9 Q to Q 2
10 P to K B 4	10 P to K Kt 3 (b)
11 B to K 3	11 B takes Kt
12 P takes B	12 Kt to B 4
13 B to K B 2	13 Kt to B 3
14 B to Kt 5	14 Castles (K R) (c)
15 P to K Kt 4	15 Kt to Kt 2
16 R to Kt sq	16 K to R 2 (d)
17 Kt to Q 2	17 P to B 3
18 Kt to B 3	18 P to Q R 3
19 B takes Kt	19 Q takes B
20 B to R 4	20 P takes P
21 Kt takes P	21 Q to K sq
22 Q to Q 2	22 R to Q B sq
23 Q R to K B sq	23 P to B 4
24 Q to Kt 2 (e)	24 P takes P
25 P to B 5	25 B to B 2 (f)
26 B to B 6	26 P to Q 6
27 Q to R 3	27 P to Q 5
28 R to B 3 (g)	28 B to Q 4
29 P takes P ch	29 Q takes P (h)
30 Kt takes Q	30 R takes B
31 Kt to R 4	31 Q R to B sq
32 K R to K B sq	32 R takes R
33 Kt takes R	33 P to Q 7
34 K to Kt 2	34 R takes Kt (i)
35 Q takes R	35 B takes Q ch
36 K takes B	Resigns.

(a) The best method of declining the Danish Gambit is by 3 P to Q 4.

(b) This move is one of the minute guns of Chess.

(c) I almost think Black should abandon the idea of, or at any rate postpone Castling in such a position. His most hopeful play would be P to K R 4, and afterwards P to Q R 3.

(d) P to B 4 is preferable.

(e) One of Mr. Blackburne's deep moves.

(f) If 25 P takes P, 26 P takes P, Kt takes P, 27 R takes Kt, R to K Kt sq, 28 Q to B sq, and ought to win. Kt to Kt 4 instead of last move looks tempting, but does not seem to turn out particularly well.

(g) Still working underneath the ground. Is not sound though; but a brilliant error, anyhow.

(h) This very fine move, which evidently was intended previously, should not only have saved, but won the game.

(i) This is a pity. Kt to K 3, and White would have had little hope of drawing; certainly none of winning, *e.g.*,

	34 Kt to K 3
35 Q to Kt 3 (I see nothing better)	
	35 Kt to Kt 4
36 Q to Q 6	36 R takes Kt
37 Q takes B	37 R takes R
38 Q to Q 7 ch	38 Kt to B 2
39 K takes R	39 Pawn queens ch
40 K moves	40 K to Kt 2

and a player of Mr. Wood's strength would expect to win.

✓ GAME 38.

King's Gambit.

White.	Black.
Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Mr. GILTAY.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 K Kt to B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 B to B 4	4 B to Kt 2
5 P to K R 4	5 P to K R 3
6 P takes P	6 P takes P
7 R takes R	7 B takes R
8 P to Q 4	8 P to Q 3
9 Q to Q 3	9 P to Kt 5
10 Q B takes P	10 P takes Kt
11 Q takes P	11 Q to B 3 (a)
12 Kt to B 3	12 B to K 3 (b)
13 P to K 5	13 Q to R 5 ch
14 P to Kt 3	14 Q to R 7
15 B takes B	15 P takes B
16 Q takes P	16 Q to Kt 8 ch
17 K to K 2	17 Q takes R
18 P takes P	18 P takes P
19 Kt to K 4 (c)	19 Kt to K 2
20 Kt takes P ch	20 K to B sq
21 B to R 6 ch	21 B to Kt 2
22 B takes B ch	22 K takes B
23 Q takes Kt ch	23 K to Kt 3
24 Q takes P ch	24 K to R 4
25 Kt to B 7	Resigns.

(a) Q to R 5 ch, followed if B to K Kt 3 by Q to R 2 would appear to be Black's best defence. If P to K Kt 3 then the same move or what should be better still Q to Kt 5

(b) Kt to K 2 though by no means satisfactory, is best I think.

(c) All this is exquisitely played.

✓ GAME 39.

Petroff Defence.

White.	Black.
Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Mr. C. SIMON.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to K B 3
3 B to B 4	3 Kt takes P
4 Kt to B 3	4 Kt to K B 3 (a)
5 Kt takes P	5 P to Q 4
6 B to Kt 3	6 B to Q 3 (b)
7 P to Q 4	7 B to K 3
8 Castles	8 Castles
9 B to Kt 5	9 P to B 3
10 P to B 4	10 B to B sq
11 P to B 5	11 Q Kt to Q 2
12 Q to K sq	12 Q to Kt 3
13 B to K 3	13 Q to B 2
14 B to K B 4	14 Kt to R 4 (c)
15 Kt takes Kt	15 B takes Kt (d)
16 B to K 5	16 Q R to K sq
17 Q to R 4	17 B takes B
18 P takes B	18 P to K Kt 3
19 P to Kt 4	19 Kt to Kt 2
20 P to B 6	20 Kt to K 3
21 Q R to K sq	21 K to R sq
22 R to B 3	22 R to K Kt sq (e)

White mates in two moves.

(a) Kt takes Kt, is usually played here, but that continuation seems considerably shaken by Mr. W. T. Pierce's invention, which appeared lately in the *Illustrated London News*. The move in the text ought to be satisfactory enough.

(b) Here I should prefer B to K 2

(c) This does not turn out well. His position has become embarrassed and a good move is difficult to find. I suppose Kt to K sq is not the worst on the board.

(d) If B takes B Mr. Blackburne could reply with Kt takes R or Kt to K 5. The former in the most plausible lines of play shews the gain of a piece by the blindfold player as against two Pawns lost.

(e) Which brings on the end. P to K R 4, either before or after checking, evidently his only resource, and then that wild animal, the mate, would not be unearthed without some trouble.

GAME 40.

A Game played in Mr. Archdall's Correspondence Tourney, between Mr. Wm. Nash, of Saint Neots, and Mr. R. W. Johnson, of Liverpool.

(Petroff Defence.)

White.	Black.
Mr. NASH.	Mr. JOHNSON.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to K B 3
3 Kt takes P	3 P to Q 3
4 Kt to K B 3	4 Kt takes P
5 P to Q 4	5 P to Q 4
6 B to Q 3	6 B to Q 3 (a)
7 Castles	7 Castles
8 P to B 4	8 Kt to K B 3
9 Q to Kt 3	9 B to K 3 (b)
10 P to B 5	10 B to K 2
11 Q takes Kt P	11 Q Kt to Q 2
12 Kt to B 3	12 P to Q R 3 (c)
13 Q to Kt 3	13 Kt takes P
14 P takes Kt	14 P to Q 5
15 Q to B 2	15 P takes Kt
16 Kt to Kt 5	16 P to Kt 3 (d)
17 Kt takes B	17 P takes Kt
18 B to K R 6	18 K to B 2
19 B takes R	19 B takes B
20 Q R to Q sq	20 Q to Kt sq
21 Q takes P	21 P to Q B 3
22 K R to K sq (e)	22 Kt to Kt 5
23 P to K R 3	23 B to Kt 2 (f)
24 B takes Kt P (ch)	24 P takes B
25 R to Q 7 (ch)	25 K to K sq
26 Q takes B	Resigns.

(a) B to K 2 is better here.

(b) Which loses a pawn. I believe Black has no other resource than to submit to the disadvantages arising from P takes P

(c) Threatening B takes P, or if the Q retire to Kt 3, then Kt takes P, but the former is too obvious, and the latter not to be feared.

(d) P to R 3 his only resource. He will now lose the exchange.

(e) Anticipating Black's next move.

(f) The check will yield nothing, *e.g.*—

	23 Q to R 7 (ch)
24 K to B sq	24 Kt to B 3
25 B to K 4	25 Kt takes B
26 R takes Kt	26 Q to R 8 (ch)
27 K to K 2	27 Q takes Kt P
28 R to B 4 (ch)	28 K to Kt sq (if K to K sq, then Q to B 6).
29 R to Q 7 and wins	

GAME 41. ✓

Played in the second round of the City of London, Handicap on November 9th 1877.

Pawn and move.

Remove Black's K B P.

White.	Black.
Mr. BARBER.	Mr. B. F. BUSSY.
1 P to K 4	1 P to Q B 4 (a)
2 B to B 4 (b)	2 P to K 3
3 Kt to K B 3	3 Kt to Q B 3
4 P to Q 3	4 B to K 2
5 Kt to B 3	5 Kt to B 3
6 B to K B 4 (c)	6 Castles
7 Castles (d)	7 Kt takes P
8 P takes Kt	8 R takes B
9 B to Q 3	9 P to K 4
10 Kt to Q 5	10 R to B sq
11 B to B 4	11 K to R sq
12 R to K sq	12 P to Q 3
13 P to K R 3	13 P to Q R 3
14 P to Q R 4	14 B to B 3
15 P to B 3	15 Kt to K 2
16 Q to Kt 3	16 Kt to Kt 3
17 Q R to Q sq	17 B to Kt 4
18 Kt to Kt 6	18 B takes R P (e)
19 Kt takes R	19 R takes Kt
20 P takes R (f)	20 B to B 5
21 B to K 6	21 Q to Kt 4 ch
22 B to Kt 4	22 P to K R 4
23 R takes P (g)	23 P takes B
24 R to Q 8 ch	24 K to R 2
25 Q to Kt 8 ch	25 K to R 3
26 K to R sq	26 P takes P
Resigns.	

(a) Offering a Pawn and not entirely for nothing. Something is obtained in position, but not the Pawn's worth.

(b) As will be understood from the last note, White can and moreover he should capture the Pawn: 2 Q to R 5 ch, P to Kt 3, 3 Q takes B P, Kt to Q B 3, 4 Kt to K B 3, P to K 4, 5 Q to B 3, B to Kt 5, 6 Q to Kt 3, Q to K 2, or Kt to K B 3, 7 P to B 3, and White is all right. There is another way after Kt to

Q B 3, which I should say, ought to turn out well for the odds receiver, viz.:—4 B to Kt 5, P to K 4, 5 Q to B 3, B to Kt 5. (If Kt to Q 5, then 6 B to R 4,) 6 Q to K Kt 3, and again, Black has taken not very much by his motion.

(c) Mr. Barber does not seem to be aware that he ought to be making some attempt to utilize the positional advantage with which he starts.

(d) If White has hitherto been under the impression that this is an even game he will now be undeceived. The information will cost a Pawn, however.

(e) A very brilliant conception. Much is given up and the advantage looked for will be found very far from perceptible. It will be seen further on that I do not consider the combination invincible. I find one move in one of the many variations that seems to prevent Black from forcing a win, but even then he would not have suffered any great loss and there would be a workable game left to him.

(f) This, of course, is the critical point. White has many lines of play to choose from, in fact quite a bewildering variety, such as B to B sq, R to Q 3, B to K 6, B to K 2, and Q to Kt 6. They all lead to interesting, and most of them to very difficult variations, but I can only point out the main features:

First variation—

20 B to B sq	20 B to B 5
21 P takes R	21 Q to Kt 4 ch

followed by B takes B, or—

21 P takes B	21 Q to Kt 4 ch

followed, if K to R sq, by R takes P, or—

21 Q to Kt 6	21 Q to R 5

Second variation—

20 R to Q 3	20 B takes Kt P
21 K takes B	21 R takes R
22 B takes R	22 Kt to B 5 ch

Third variation—

20 B to K 6 is not very much, as Black can take it off, and when Q retakes, play R to B 3.

Fourth variation—

20 B to K 2	20 B takes Kt P
21 K takes B	21 Kt to R 5 ch
22 K to B sq	22 R takes P ch

or—

22 K to R sq	22 Q to Q 2

or—

22 K to Kt sq	22 R takes B P

Fifth variation—

This blooms more with promise for White, and it so far flaws Black's conception, but only against the very best play as I consider.

20 Q to Kt 6	20 Q to K B sq
21 Q takes Q P	21 B to K 2

(If Q to B 5, then Q to Q 5)

22 Q to Q 5

(The one saving clause to which I alluded)

	22 R takes P
23 P takes B	23 R to B 6
24 R to K B sq	24 Kt to R 5
25 R takes R	25 Kt takes R ch
26 K to R sq	

and the position is not satisfactory for Black, who, however, could, at move 20, have withdrawn his Rook to B sq, being then the exchange behind, but with a by no means helpless game.

(g) If 23 Q to K 6, then Kt to R 5.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 914.

1 Kt to K B 5	1 Aught
2 Mates accordingly	

No. 915.

1 Kt at Q 6 takes P	1 Q to Kt sq
2 Kt to Q B 5	2 Aught
3 R or P mates	

No. 916.

1 R to Q 4	1 K takes R
2 Kt to K 4 dis ch	2 K takes P, or K to K 4
3 Kt or P mates	

If Black play 1 B takes Kt P, the reply is 2 R to K 4, and if 1 Kt moves, then 2 Kt to Q 7 ch, &c.

No. 917.

1 B to Kt sq	1 K to K 3 best
2 Q to Q 5	2 K takes Q
3 Kt to B 7 ch	3 K to K 4
4 P to Q 4, mate	

No. 918.

1 P to K 4	1 P to R 7 ch
2 R takes P	2 R at Q sq to Q B sq
3 R to R 7	3 Kt takes P
4 Kt to Q B 5 ch	4 R takes Kt
5 Q takes B mates	

Black has other moves, but none to prolong the mate. If for instance, Black plays 3 B to Kt sq, the reply is 4 Kt ch, and 5 R Mates.

No. 919.

In this Problem the Pawns on the Queen's file should stand on the Q Bishop's file and the solution then is—

1 Q to R 5	1 K to B 5 best
1 Q to Kt 6	2 K to K 4 best
3 K to B 3	3 K to Q 4 best
4 K to B 4	4 K moves
5 Q mates.	

No. 920

1 R to Q 4	1 B moves
2 Kt to Q 7	2 B moves
3 Kt to Q B 5	3 B moves
4 R to K 4	4 B moves
5 Kt mates accordingly.	

If Black play 1 B to Q Kt 8, then 2 R takes B and mates in two more moves.

No. 921

1 B to Kt 3	1 P moves
2 B to R 2	2 P moves
3 Kt to Q 2	3 K takes B
4 Kt to B 2	4 K moves
5 Kt to B sq	5 P moves
6 Kt to Kt 3 mates.	

No. 922.

1 Q to Q 7	1 Aught
2 Mates	

No. 923.

1 B to Q B 8	1 P to Q B 5
2 P to B 3 ch	2 K takes Kt
3 B mates	

If Black play 1 K to B 3, then 2 B to R 6 ch, etc.

No. 924.

1 B to R 7	1 K to K 5
2 Q to Kt 6	2 Anything
3 Q takes P mate	

If Black play 1 Kt to B 3, then 2 Q ch and mates next move.

No. 925.

1 R to Q sq	1 K moves
2 P to Q 6 dis ch	2 K moves
3 Mates	

No. 926.

1 R to K 4	1 B takes R
2 Kt to R 3	2 Aught.
3 Kt mates	

No. 927.

1 B to Q Kt 7	1 P to B 5
2 Kt to Q 7	2 K to Kt 5
3 B to Q B 8	3 Anything.
4 Kt to K B 5 mate	

No. 928.

1 R to Kt 5	1 K moves best
2 Q to R 8 ch	2 R covers
3 Q takes R ch and mates next move.	

No. 929.

1 Q to R 3 ch	1 K to B 7
2 R to B sq ch	2 K to Q 7
3 Kt to B 4 ch	3 B takes Kt
4 Q to Kt 2 ch	4 K takes P
5 Q to Q 2 ch	5 K takes Q
6 B takes B ch	6 Q or R mates

930

1 Q to Kt 2	1 Any move
2 Mates	

931

1 Q to Q B 3	1 P takes Q
2 R to Q Kt 4	2 Kt takes R
3 Kt mates	

932

1 Q to Q 6	1 P to K 5 (a)
2 Kt to B 4	2 K to B 7
3 Kt to Kt 2 mate	

(a)

	1 Kt to B 6
2 Q to Kt 4	2 Anything
3 Q mates	

933

1 Kt from Q 5 to Kt 6	1 P takes Kt
2 Q to Q 2 (ch)	2 K moves
3 Q mates	

934

1 Q to Kt 4	1 Aught
2 Mates	

935

1 Q to Q B 4	1 Kt to Q Kt
2 Q to Q B 5	2 Aught
3 Mates	

936

1 Kt to K 5	1 P takes Kt
2 B to Q R 6	2 P takes P
3 B to K Kt 7	3 P moves
4 R mates	

937

1 Kt to K B 3	1 R to K 5
2 Kt to Q B 8	2 R to K Kt
3 R to Q 4 (ch)	3 R takes R
4 Kt mates	

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. 138.

By Mr. F. H. LEWIS.

A's Hand.

X's Hand.

B's Hand.

Z's Hand.

A to lead. Diamonds trump. Can A and B make 3 by Cards?

For the best Analysis and Solution of this Problem we will give J. C., Cavendish, Professor Pole, or any vol. of these PAPERS.

SOLUTION TO DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM No. 137.

BY MR. F. H. LEWIS.

1 A leads Diamond 2; X puts K; won by X.
2 X leads Club 3; B puts Club 10; Z puts Club Queen; won by A.
3 A leads Diamond; won by Z.
4 Z leads Diamond; won by B.
5 B leads Club (best); won by Z.
6 Z leads Club; won by Z.
7 Z leads Spade 2; X puts Spade Knave; won by B.
8 B leads Spade 9; Z puts Spade 10; won by Z.
9 Z leads Diamond 9; X discards Heart; B trumps; won by B.
10 B leads Spade King; Z puts Ace; won by Z.
11 Z leads Heart King; won by A.
12 A leads Heart; won by B.
13 B leads Heart and the 2 trumps fall together; won by X. and X and Z win the odd trick.

5a Thus forcing Z to lead trump.

5b If B leads here Spade King, it is not the best play to return the Spade; the game should proceed thus:—

5 B leads Spade King; Z puts Ace; won by Z.
6 Z leads Heart King; won by A.

Unless now A lead a second Heart, A and B lose two by cards thus:—

7 A leads Club; won by Z.
8 Z leads Club; won by Z.
9 Z leads Heart; won by B.
10 B leads Heart; Z trumps; won by Z.
11 Z leads Diamond; X puts Spade Knave; won by B.

and X and Z win the two other tricks, and if B does not trump, then X plays through, and Z makes Spade 10.

If after leading two rounds of Heart, B leads a third Heart, X and Z equally make two by cards thus:—

7. A leads Heart, Z discards Diamond; won by X.
8. X leads Club; won by Z.
9. Z leads Club; won by Z.
10. Z leads Spade, X puts Knave; won by B, and X and Z must win the other 2 tricks.

I give these difficulties of play for the purpose of showing that the best play if Spade King is led and taken, is to play the Heart King and not to return the Spade, which makes the position more easily seen through by A and B.

9. (a) Of main solution. If B does not trump, X and Z make 2 by cards thus:—

9. Z leads Diamond 9, B discards Heart; won by Z.
10. Z leads Heart King; won by A.
11. A leads Heart; won by B, and as B has to play, he must lose the 2 trumps.

9 (b) If Z here leads Spade Ace, and then Diamond 9, B refuses to trump, and if Z then leads Heart, A and B make 2 Hearts and a Spade, and if he leads the Spade A and B make the Spade, Heart Ace and the thirteenth Club.

As A has the attack, it is open to him also to commence with the Spade, getting the advantage of the finesse, but the result without going into detail is the same. The principle of the Problem is to compel X or Z to lead Hearts, so that A and B may make one Club, one Diamond, 2 Spades and 2 Hearts, or one Heart and the 13th Club. Many solvers have made A or B lead Heart, thinking in that way to make a 2nd Club, forgetting that X can always at the right moment get a discard of the Club upon the 13th Diamond. I award the prize to Beta.

FREDERIC H. LEWIS.

Correct Solutions received from Beta, Odd Trick, Brighton Club, Tenace, Lex, X.Y.Z., St. James's, and Bessie. All others wrong.

REPREHENSIBLE CONDUCT OF DUMMY.

Dummy being apparently void of Clubs ruffed the suit twice. During the violent struggles of his opponents to stop this, his hand became disarranged, and it was found that he had hidden the Ace, which he eventually made, under one of the other suits, and by this means won the rubber. What ought to be done with him? Of course he cannot revoke, and therefore the penalty for revoking does not apply to him; but there is an idea that he can be made to play his cards over again. I should think not; it appears to me that if he is in the habit of hiding his cards, and bringing them out when convenient, the only course is to decline to play with him.

PEMBRIDGE.

[The theory of the game makes Dummy's hand the property of all the players. Each should count Dummy's hand. Dummy is not liable to a penalty for a revoke, and as the mistake is not discovered until all the tricks to which the ace was playable had been turned and quitted, all the tricks stand, and the ace can be played to any trick Dummy pleases, whereby he does not revoke. He may gain, but he may lose a trick by the blunder. This is Mr. F. H. Lewis' opinion.—ED. *W. P.*]

IS IT A REVOKE?

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—A very subtle point recently arose at one of the West End Clubs. The facts are these:—A led a Spade, B not having any, played a Club, C trumped, and D followed suit. B, under the impression that Clubs were played, said to his partner, "no Clubs, partner," whereupon B put Spade aside, played a Club, and the adversaries turned and quitted the trick, and afterwards claimed a Revoke. The question is, did D Revoke? The main contention in favour of D and against the revoke, is, that having followed suit, he could not withdraw his card; that the Club played was an exposed card; and that the adversaries having allowed him to play the Club to the trick, and to withdraw the Spade, lost their right of exacting any penalty.

I confess, though with great diffidence, considering that there are many high authorities in favour of D, that I am not of this opinion, and I consider this question well worthy of discussion. Law 71, says "A Revoke is, when a player holding one or more cards of the suit led, plays a card of a different suit," and Law 73 says "A Revoke is established, if the trick in which it occur, be turned and quitted, &c." The first law points to what I would call the "Revoke conditional," the second to the "Revoke Absolute."

The first question which arises is, what is the meaning of playing a card to a trick? My answer is, the card which *appears in* the trick, and the trick is the proof of that card. I contend, when once the trick is turned and quitted, you cannot go behind the trick, to give the player who has not, *in fact*, followed suit, any opportunity of explaining how he came not to follow suit. This view is in direct harmony with Law 73, as above. It is admitted that there is no obligation on the part of the adversaries to tell a player that he *has not followed suit*, and this even when the card is on the table, as when the dealer leaves the Trump card exposed. And yet it must be contended, to support a non-revoke on the part of D, that there *is* an obligation on the part of the adversaries to tell a player *that he has followed suit*. Let us suppose that D, having followed suit, had said, *proprio motu*, "I beg your pardon, partner; I thought I had no Club," and had put the Spade aside, and waited a reasonable time for the exaction of what he thought were the rights of the adversaries, and had then played a Club, and the trick was turned and quitted, what law disentitles him from, as he thinks "recovering his revoke." And if he may substitute a card, under a wrong impression of his own, what difference can it make that he was led into that wrong impression, by the conjoint carelessness of himself and his partner.

So long as the four cards remain upon the table,* any player may demand that the cards be placed before their respective players. This, among other reasons, is for the purpose of indicating the suit led, and for enabling a player who has not followed suit, to recover his position, and in my judgment, for the purpose of enabling a player, who *thinks* he has not followed suit, equally to recover his position.

So long as the four cards are on the table, and even before the trick is turned and quitted, what is there in the laws of Whist disentitling a player, (I put fraud out of the question) from withdrawing his card and incurring the penalties of a Revoke?

I admit that a player cannot withdraw a card *against the will* of his adversaries, except for the purpose of saving a revoke, but I contend that he may do it *with the consent of his adversaries*.

In order to strengthen the last illustration, I will suppose D to have dropped at the same time, a Spade and a club. He cannot be compelled to revoke, and therefore the club is an exposed card, and the Spade, the card playable to the trick. But if he in fact plays the Club, are the adversaries to stop him, and say "no, you have played a Spade to the trick, and this Club must be left on the table." It may be argued that at the time he dropped the two cards, there was no evidence which card he intended to play, and that as he, in fact, played a

* Until the cards are touched for the purpose of being gathered.—Ed. *W. P.*

Club, he must be taken to have intended to play the Club. But in the last case put, the evidence is that D *intended* to play a Club, although he had in fact, followed suit.

I think the high minded course, in the above case, would have been to stop the question when it was put, upon the ground that according to law, a player can only ask his partner whether he has a card of the suit which he has renounced, but if the case is to be decided according to strict law, I think D did revoke.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

FREDERIC H. LEWIS.

[Since the above was in type, Cavendish, in the *Field*, has given a contrary opinion. He admits that the question is difficult, but "I have no doubt that D has not revoked." He played a Spade to a trick, and a card once played to a trick cannot be recalled, except to save a revoke. The trick, as originally played, is not turned. Three cards only of the trick are turned, with one card that does not belong to it.—ED. *W.P.*]

WHIST AT THE WEST END.

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—"Windham's" question in your September number is:—"Was A justified in silence, and in allowing the trick to be scored?" Let us first see whether the trick was or was not properly scored; for if the trick were properly scored A would obviously be justified in silence; if not properly scored the question then is, whether A was justified in silence while the trick was being improperly scored.

Well, is the case within any of the rules of the game? I think that it is on the ground that a true construction of Rule 59 implies these two propositions—namely,

1. If a player throws down his cards face upwards, alleging that he has won the game, the act of the adversaries in thereupon throwing down their cards face upwards is, after the 4th player shall have done the same, an acceptance by the adversaries of the loss of the game which they cannot withdraw.

2. If a player throws down his cards face upwards, alleging that he has lost the game, the act of the other three players in throwing down their cards face upwards is an acceptance of the allegation, and the losers cannot withdraw their admission or avert the consequences.

The four players are at once suitors (no joke is intended) and judges, and when the cards have been thrown down by all, the case has been heard and adjudicated upon, and the declaration of him who first threw down his cards has been irrevocably accepted, and is binding upon all.

Does the moral code forbid the players or any of them to apply the rule construed as above, and to act according to it? On the contrary, the moral code must surely oblige the players to conform to the rules to which by implication they undertook to conform when they sat down at the table.

If the above argument be admitted sound, the trick was scored in accordance with the rules of the game, and A was justified in silence, and moreover, nothing that he could have said after the cards were thrown down should have altered the result.

I assume it to be beyond question that although A in the above case knew, and alone knew, before throwing down his cards, that the trick would probably have been won by P and Z (I say probably, because it is *possible* that the play might have revealed a revoke by Z in the earlier part of the hand), he would be justified, according to the moral code, in throwing down his cards after P and Z had done the same. H. S.

A WHIST HERESY.

EXTRACT FROM *The Field*, December 15th.

We have received from America a cutting from the *New York World* about Whist, with a request that we will give our views on the subject, the sender being sorely grieved to think that the original lead from the long suit is in danger of being cast aside. In our opinion there is no such danger; but as the heterodox views, propounded in the paragraph in question, seem to have been widely circulated, and to have been received on both sides of the Atlantic with a certain amount of credence, we propose to go into the question at some length.

The *New York World* writes as follows:

An eminent English authority declares that the system of Whist-playing recommended by "Cavendish" is going out of fashion, and that a conviction is generally entertained that the long suit system, however well adapted for long Whist, cannot be carried out in its integrity in the short game. There are so many exceptions to the rule of leading from the long suit, that the risk is run of seeing the exceptions form the rule. The rules of play are intended for young players, and written on the assumption that the score is always love all, and the player original leader. The advanced player is always supposed to know when to throw rules aside, but when to do so the learner must find out for himself. By good players the idea which governs most of the authors of books upon Whist, that by leading the long suit under all circumstances less harm is done than by any other lead—is abandoned; thus with a

long weak suit and weak hand generally scarcely a player of repute but would lead the highest card, unless it were a king. So also with the score advanced. No one tries to effect the impossibility of bringing in the long weak suit. On the other hand, with great strength in trumps and the score advanced, the rule seems to be to lead from the two weaker suits rather than from the longest, if consisting of four without an honour, instead of hammering away at the four suit in the hops of bringing in the thirteenth. The exceptions may be carried to excess, but the very fact of such a thing as leading from singletons with a good suit and four trumps being noted, shows how completely some players have renounced the book rules. The modern player plays to win the game—not a point, and, as Mr. Clay observed of a previous generation of players, the dashing players win.

We have not met with any "eminent English authority" who declares that the long suit system cannot be carried out at short Whist, no do we think he exists. The original lead from the long suit is fully as important at short Whist as at long; and there are, in our opinion, no exceptions, whatever the score. The long suit lead is certainly not abandoned by good players; nor does any player of repute, within our experience—which is somewhat extensive—with a long weak suit and a weak hand open the game by leading his highest card, whatever the score. The object of the lead from a long weak suit under the above circumstances is not to bring in the suit, but to take the best chance of not clearing a suit in which the opponents are strong. We admit that with great strength in trumps some good players do lead a weak suit originally, in order to ruff. But these are in a considerable minority, as most players, with great strength in trumps, lead trumps.

The reasons for choosing the long suit for the original lead may be stated as under: When a player has to open the game he must make choice of some card, and he ought to select that card with some object. He may lead a single card in hopes of making tricks by trumping, or he may lead from his long suit, in hopes of bringing it in, or, if he has a weak hand, as the best defence against a suit's being brought in by the opponents. Now, it is admitted on all hands that is an advantage to give information to partner of strength, and also that it is a disadvantage to proclaim weakness. Further, it is of the utmost importance to adopt a uniform system of play, or partner is kept in doubt as to the leader's tactics. The long suit opening is the only one that can be uniformly adopted, as the hand always contains a suit of at least four cards; but the possession of a singleton is uncertain. The hand may contain no cards of one suit, when that suit cannot be led, and so partner is not directed to it; or the weakest suit may consist of two cards when the chance of making trumps by ruffing it would be very doubtful. Again, after leading a single card the system cannot be pursued or furthered. The next lead must be on some other ground.

"The long suit opening," as Dr. Pole observes, "is free from these objections. It is uniformly practicable; you can persevere in your design every time you get the lead, whether your partner can help you or not; your indications to your partner are positive and unmistakeable; and the adversaries are almost powerless to offer you any direct obstruction—their only resource being to bring forward counter plans of their own. It is sometimes alleged against the long suit opening that in many cases it cannot be followed to its conclusion, from the strength of trumps being against you, or from an untoward fall of the cards."

This allegation, we may remark, parenthetically, is only another way of saying that the best-laid plans will not succeed against superior cards in the adverse hands. "But even," continues the Doctor, "in this case it is still the safest, as, though it may not succeed for yourself, it is the way least likely to help your adversary, and indeed it furnishes you with the best means of obstructing him by forcing his hand. And it must be recollected that its adoption as an opening does not bind you always implicitly to follow it up, or in the least prevent you from making tricks, in the after part of the hand, by any other mode, should you find it to your interest to do so. Any master cards you may possess will take care of themselves; and if you are short of a suit and wish to trump it, you have only to wait till it is led by someone else, and you attain your object without misleading your partner.

Thus the long suit system has not only peculiar benefits of its own, but it permits full advantage to be taken of the other systems also. . . . Accepting, therefore, this system as the preferable one, we are now able to enunciate the fundamental theory of the game, which is, that the hands of the two partners shall not be played singly and independently, but shall be combined and treated as one. And that in order to carry out most effectually this principle of combination, each partner shall adopt the long suit system as the general basis of his play."

All this is admirable, and ought to convince even the most sceptical "eminent English authority" that the long suit system is in no danger of being abandoned. It cannot be said that it amounts to *proof*, but it runs as near to a demonstration as the complex nature of the problem admits.

It cannot be denied, however, that the strongest argument in favour of the long suit system is that it has characterised the scientific game ever since it was invented, that it has stood the test of the experience of a century and a half, and that it is adopted by all the best authorities on the game. Hoyle says, "When you lead, begin with the best suit in your hand." Matthews says, "The point to which all the manœuvres of good Whist players tend is to establish a long suit, and to preserve the last trump [or a winning card] to bring it into their play, and to frustrate the same play of their adversaries." Clay says, "Let your first lead be from your strongest suit," and "the lead from a single card is very generally condemned as an original lead; and, as a habit, it is very bad, though not unfrequent. The player who generally leads from a single card, if he happens to have one, is always suspected, and speedily found out. His partner never knows what he is to expect from him, and probably, if strong in trumps, draws the trumps, returns what he has reason to believe to be his partner's strong suit, and finds

him with none of it; or it may be, suspecting the usual singleton, he dares not play a trump when he otherwise would have done so. This habit is destructive of all confidence, frequently helps to establish your adversary's strong suit, and is likely to mislead and sacrifice your partner.

We believe we have quoted all the eminent English authorities, and they are unanimous. After this array of opinions, it is difficult to conceive how it can have got about, that "the idea that—by leading the long suit less harm is done than by any other lead—is abandoned.

[We feel for the *New York World*. It is almost the first time that our contemporary has written on Whist. It is hard for a first offence to be pounced down upon by our Whist Pope, and declared heretical. A more hardened offender could have better borne this heavy punishment. Our brothers on the other side of the Atlantic are taking an intelligent interest in Whist. The numerous letters we receive from the American Clubs lead us to this conclusion, and the fact that *The World*, which is written for the most intelligent classes of the United States, now touches on the subject, confirms our opinion. We are glad to find that *The World* has a large circulation here. *The Field* says, "that these heresies (propounded by *The World*) seem to have been widely circulated and to have been received on both sides of the Atlantic with a certain amount of credence."

The World incidentally mentions Whist and the Whist World of London, is in a state of intense excitement A great Whist writer has arisen, and he has views of his own. With him modern Whist is not perfection. The poor benighted Britishers have been worshipping their golden calf, and this American will not admit this god to "be a perfect god. He believes that other and lesser gods possess some light. It is too bad of Cavendish not to let us into the secret who this "Eminent English authority" is? To sneer at "an eminent English Author," and not to tell us who he is, is *The Field's* taste, and we all bow to *The Field* on such matters. *The Field* can do no wrong because the Editor acts on *principle*. *The Field* has hit on the above ingenious device for crushing the poor *World* who has done them no harm and he punishes *The World* for an offence committed by some unknown author. When will *The Field* Editor (not Cavendish) learn to conduct the paper like a gentleman?

We can assure our American friends, that there is no other journal in England that would stoop to a device so mean and paltry, but then *The Field* is written by gentlemen, for gentlemen—country gentlemen it is true, but still gentlemen. We will reply to the argument next month.—Ed. W. P.]

ÉCARTÉ. THE NEW LAWS.

We announced in our last number that a Committee of the Portland and Arlington Clubs, with the assistance of Cavendish, had brought out a new set of Ecarté laws. Those rules we propose to compare with the laws as they have hitherto been understood. For this purpose we shall take the Cavendish Code as sound, and shew wherein the new laws differ from the old.

First, before we begin, we are to declare whether we play English or French Ecarté.

Marking the King, we have rule 23:—

"If either player hold the King of Trumps, he must announce it before playing his first card," but (24), "If the King be the card first led it may be announced at any time prior to its being played to. If the King be the card first played by the dealer he may annonnce it at any time before he plays again."

Cavendish, law 22, is the same as this 23, but law 23, the equivalent to the above 24, is as follows:—If the King is the card first played it may be announced when in the act of playing, instead of before playing. Is there not some confusion in the matter. If the King be the card first led it may be announced at any time prior to its being played to. Can it be that the code means, if the dealer plays his first card, the King, he need not count it then, but wait until he plays again? If the King is led it cannot be counted after it is covered. That is one point to keep in your mind, but if you are dealer, and your adversary plays again after your King is on the table, we get a different time to remember, viz.: you can do so until you have played your second card.

Law, 25 which refers to counting the King when you have it not, gives the opponent the right to have the hand played over again, "notwithstanding that he may have abandoned his hand," with the regular penalty, that if the offender gains the *vole* he can only mark one. If he gains the point he marks nothing, "if he win the point when his adversary has played, without proposing, or has refused," the offender can only mark one. Then comes this rule, "But if the adversary himself hold the King there is no penalty."

If improvements in the law be permitted this is certainly one of which we approve. But observe in all rules previously promulgated, if a player marked the King when he had it not, the adversary had the right to mark the point. The code takes away this right. The committee have done this in several other instances we shall have to mention and it cannot therefore be a slip. They have deliberately taken away from us a means of punishment for a wrong that can be brought about only by gross carelessness or by design. In neither case does the culprit deserve any pity at our hands and the simplest punishment, the adversaries' right to mark the point, was nine times out of ten the real punishment.

In marking the King turned up the time is slighly extended. The Cavendish rule permitted you to mark it "at any time during the hand." The code stands "at any time before the trump card of the next deal is turned up." Who can possibly detect these little differences?

SHUFFLING.—There are no alterations in the laws except that it is now stated what was before understood, that each player has the right to shuffle both his own and his adversaries' cards; but they are not to shuffle during the play of the hand.

CUTTING.—The winner of the cut has the choice of cards, and seats "during the play." This is new. The usual plan has been for the cut to determine the cards and seat for that game. Then the players dealt alternately, or what was more orthodox, they cut each time and the winner of the cut could change the cards. Now we can only change the cards by calling for new ones. If the players do not object, the Club Committee, or the proprietors of Clubs, and the card makers, will certainly approve this alteration. If in cutting more than one card is exposed there must be a fresh cut. By Cavendish's rule if two cards were exposed in cutting the adversary chose which of the two he pleased.

DEALING.—As to the order of dealing 2 and 3, or 3 and 2, the order by the old law must be adhered to during the game, now it is added, "nor may he [either player] change it (the order), at the commencement of any subsequent game, unless he inform the non-dealer before the pack is cut."

No. 9.—"If the dealer give more or less than five cards" to either side, and the error is discovered before the non-dealer has looked at his hand, the non-dealer may have a fresh deal, or have the error rectified. Cavendish laws said there must be a fresh deal.

No. 12.—"If before the trump card is turned up a faced card be discovered in the pack, there must be a fresh deal." Cavendish had it, except the 11th card when the deal stands. We suppose it is intended to abolish this distinction.

17. If after the trump card is turned up and before the dealer accepts or refuses, or if there is no proposal before he plays, it be discovered that he has dealt himself more than five cards the non-dealer may claim a fresh deal. Should he not claims a fresh deal he draws the superfluous cards from the dealer's hand. Should the dealer have taken up his hand, the non-dealer is entitled to look at the cards he draws."

The Cavendish code gave the non-offender the right to look at the superfluous cards always. As the new law gives the right to see the drawn cards when the dealer has seen them, we presume it is intended to follow that if dealer has not looked at his cards, the non-dealer must not look at the drawn superfluous cards.

20. "If the non-dealer play without taking cards, and it be then discovered that he has more or less than five cards there must be a fresh deal."

21 "If the dealer play without taking cards and it be then discovered that he has more or less than five cards, his adversary may claim a fresh deal."

It will be observed that here is a very material alteration. The Cavendish law was (20.) If either player has more or less than 5 cards in hand, he is bound to inform his adversary. If he fails to do so the adversary is entitled to throw up his hand, and to mark the vole, and the offender loses the right of marking the king whether turned up or in hand. The innovation is on the assumption that, as our laws in the past were cruel, and by the efforts of Follett, Brougham, and others, are now more merciful, therefore, the Ecarté lawyers follow out the same principle. It is also some approach to the French mode of play, where penalties are seldom inflicted.

27 "The dealer, if required, must inform his adversary how many cards he has taken."

It is presumed this means at any period of the game. This is a decided innovation.

29. If the non-dealer take more cards than he has discarded, and mix any of them with his hand, the dealer may claim a fresh deal. If the dealer elect to play the hand, he draws the superfluous cards from the non-dealer's hand. Should the non-dealer have taken up any of the cards given him, the dealer is entitled to look at the cards he draws.

We think the meaning of this law is that the dealer has the right first to look at his hand, and then elect whether he will stand the deal or not, but the old law was that the dealer could mark the point, and the non-dealer could not mark the point. Observe Law 19 on this point:—"If a fresh deal be not claimed when the wrong number of cards are dealt, the dealer cannot mark the King turned up." The law on which we are commenting is not where the wrong number of cards are dealt. Did the Committee mean Law 19 to govern 29 and similar cases. We doubt.

Cavendish suggests that if you have your wrong number of cards on your first discard you cannot rectify the blunder by throwing out the superfluous card on the 2nd. We once saw this done with effect. Of course laws cannot be made to protect men against cheating, but the old laws gave us some protection. It is not because men are honest or high minded that they do not cheat, but because they run the risk of being detected, and having the vole marked against them. Taking law 29 as a new law, we think that a more reasonable rule might be framed. If non-dealer asks for three cards and dealer gives him four, which of the two ought to be punished? For our part we would punish the dealer. It was his business to give non-dealer the right number of cards. He gives the wrong number. He is not only let off, but gains an advantage and the non-dealer who has only failed to detect the dealer's error is punished.

32. If the dealer give his adversary less cards than he has asked for, the non-dealer may claim a fresh deal.

The new law takes away the right to throw up and mark a point.

33. Where the dealer gives himself more cards than he has discarded, the new law takes away the non-dealer's right to the point.

34. If the dealer gives himself less cards than he discards, he may before playing complete his hand from the stock.

C avendish had it—before giving cards a second time or before playing. If dealer gave cards a second time

without informing his adversary of his error his adversary was entitled to the vole. It seems to us that the alteration (by omission) is a distinct encouragement to fraudulent play. In law 38 which applies to the time when players have changed cards so often that there are not enough cards left, there is a change. The non-dealer is entitled to exchange as many as he asks for, or if there are not enough as many as there are left, and the dealer must play his hand. The Cavendish law was—"the dealer must take back the last discard."

41. If the leader name one suit and play another, the adversary may play to the card led, or may require the leader to play the suit named. If he has not one of the suit named, the card led cannot be withdrawn.

This change will, we think, lead to wrangles. The old law was that the adversary could call a suit.

42. In abandoning a hand, there is an addition "if a player throw down his cards claiming to score, the hand is not abandoned, and there is no penalty."

Law 44. New cards may be called for at any time before the pack is cut for the next deal.

At 46 we find one of Cavendish's own clauses. The game is five up. By agreement we can play single, double, or treble. It is very kind of the Committee to tell us what we may do by mutual agreement.

50. If a player omit to mark his score, he may rectify the omission at any time before the trump card of the next suit is turned up.

51. An admitted overscore can be taken down at any time during the game.

Then come the laws as to bystanders, and as to these, we think it best to give them *in extenso*.

52. If the players declare to play English Ecarté, bystanders, whether betting or not, are not allowed to make any remark, nor to draw attention to errors in the score, nor to advise on the play, nor to play out the game of a player who resigns.

53. Bystanders at English Ecarté calling attention to any error or oversight, and thereby affecting the score, may be called upon to pay all stakes and bets of the player whose interest is prejudicially affected. A bystander, by agreement between the players, may decide any question.

54. At French Ecarté those covering the stakes may draw attention to errors in the score, may advise the player they are backing, or may play out the game of a player who resigns. Advice must be given by pointing only, neither cards nor suit may be named. The player is at liberty to follow the advice or not.

We have given the points that we have detected as being alterations in the law so that if we play by this code we may all know what we are about. In our judgment, when the committee altered a known law, they ought to have drawn the attention of the players to the point. They have not done so, and the duty has therefore devolved upon us. We reserve our comments for another number.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

WHATEVER may be the truth of the general statement that the present is a season of hard times and depression of trade, the theatrical branch of industry cannot be accused of a lack of boldness in speculation, for in the first week of this new year every theatre west of St. Pauls, and, for aught we know, every theatre east of it, is inviting public support. In this list we include Her Majesty's, St. James', Queen's, Royalty, Opera Comique, and the two Holborn theatres, one or more of which is, as a rule, closed at any given time. In fact it may be said that with war abroad, and distress and uncertainty at home, there never were so many theatres open in London as at this moment, and whether the moralising philosopher will deduce from this a healthy or a declining state of the British Empire, it is not for us to determine. All we have to consider is the state of the drama, and pursuing our monthly investigations, we find that at the non-pantomime theatres nothing new and original has been produced in December. Two three-act farces in the prevailing fashion, and both from the French, have been brought out at the Gaiety and the Folly; a revived melodrama, *The Turn of the Tide*, at the Olympic; a burlesque on the *Red Rover* at the Strand; and Mr. Irving and Mr. Toole have re-appeared in London in old pieces. Early this month we are promised adaptations of *Dora* and *Patrie*, both by M. Sardou, at the Prince of Wales' and the Queen's, and a new play by Mr. Wills at the Princesses. It will thus be seen that from the artistic point of view the past month and the immediate future are as barren as the last two or three years, but how the multiplicity of theatres prosper in a pecuniary sense, we shall be better able to judge in a month's time.

A Sunday paper, not long ago, ventured on the rash assertion that pantomime was rapidly dying out. If the writer means the pantomime of thirty years ago, when fun was not subordinated to spectacle and ballet, when Flexmore, Tom Matthews, the elder Payne, and others were in their prime, we are inclined to go further than he does, and declare that pantomime is not only dying, but is dead. But if he is alluding to the pantomime of the day, which is accepted as something excellent, and praised without stint in all the newspapers, his own included, by the army of Boxing day auxiliary critics, his statement is very inaccurate. We find, on reference to our Notes for January, 1870, that at Christmas, 1869, only two pantomimes were to be seen in central London, whilst at Christmas, 1877, not only do Drury Lane, Covent Garden, Her Majesty's, the Adelphi, and the Alhambra give pantomime at night, but at five places of amusement, including the Crystal and Alexandra Palaces, there is a daily afternoon pantomime. Add to these the Surrey, the Grecian, the Standard, and Sanger's, which are in the catalogue of places that may be visited by persons in "genteel" society; and we have fourteen pantomimes which the conscientious schoolboy would consider it incumbent on him to see. When we recollect the utter absence of

humour that, with few exceptions, characterises these productions, their dreary length, the imbecility of the ballet-dancing, the occasional indecency of costume, the revolting vulgarity of the music hall songs, the ever present probability of accidents to the supernumeraries, the not wholly absent possibility of fire—when all these things are remembered, we are, not for the first time, filled with pity for that half of a pantomime audience which dislikes, but has to endure it, and with amazement at the other half which prefers it vastly to *Hamlet, the School for Scandal*, or the best melodrama that was ever written. Against this black catalogue it is only fair to concede to the credit side of the account that the score or so of pantomimes annually produced in London, give direct employment to some thousands of persons who might otherwise have no employment at all, and indirectly helps to support hundreds more who aid in the manufacture of scenery, dresses, effects, and the numberless "properties" incidental to a pantomime.

That large body of playgoers which goes to the theatre simply to be amused, and declines to regard any play with a "serious interest" as a means of amusement, ought to be well satisfied with the temporarily fashionable order of the drama known as farcical comedy. It is not necessary for our adapters to introduce any new materials for laughter into productions of this class, for it is evident that the most ancient and hackneyed comic "business" is as capable of being revived with success, as are the revived comedies and dramas, which are now the stock-in-trade of certain establishments. All that is requisite is a good low comedian, and as we showed some months ago, the stage is just now tolerably well supplied with low comedians. Indeed it may be said that taken all round, acting of every kind is at present up to a high standard in London, and paradoxical though it may sound, the theory might be advanced that so long as we have so many good actors we can dispense with authors. There is a vast *repertoire* of plays that have been successes in the past which are fit for revival, and a large amount of farcical business which can be re-set by an expert restorer to suit the taste of the day. Both the *Grasshopper* at the Gaiety, and a *Night of Terror* at the Folly are three-act farces made up of old materials, which rely for success on the brisk acting of the performers concerned in them. The *Grasshopper*, indeed, profess to be something more ambitious than farce, and is put forward by Mr. Hollingshead as a faithful adaptation of *La Cigale*, a play produced with much success in Paris. If *The Grasshopper* is really so much like its original, we are forced to the conclusion that novelty of ideas is as scarce in the Parisian as in the London dramatic world, for the English version of the play is simply a hotch-potch of the farcical elements of *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and *A Rough Diamond*, without any of the sympathetic interest which underlies two at least out of the three. There is, indeed, the possibility of a sympathetic interest in the story of the heroine of the *Grasshopper*, who is suddenly converted from an ill-used circus acrobat into a lady of title, and finding high life uncongenial, abandons it off-hand. To do the Gaiety performers justice, they find it impossible to reconcile this side of the story with its treatment by the author or adapter, and therefore ignore it as best they can; but the question naturally arises why a serious interest is suggested at all, as it undoubtedly is, if it is to be unceremoniously thrust aside. Regarded from a purely farcical point of view, *The Grasshopper* is somewhat tedious, and the interest lags when Miss Farren is off the stage, as neither Mr. Terry nor Mr. Royce find any scope for their peculiar talent. And the last act which is neither serious nor comic, but merely an episodical attempt at a satire on certain forms of modern painting, is the dullest of the three, as it is quite unintelligible to the majority of the audience. Would Mr. Hollingshead be surprised to learn that the portrait of Mr. Whistler was pronounced by a playgoer, in our hearing, to be *Miss Farren as Mephistopheles* in the succeeding burlesque? The warmest admirers of this lady, amongst whom we are to be numbered, cannot but acknowledge that by her treatment of the character she destroys any interest that might attach to the heroine of *The Grasshopper*. She has an unflagging spirit, is never dull, and is as original as Mr. Charles Matthews; but for all that she fails, where many an inferior actress might succeed, in such characters as *La Cigale*. Altogether, as we have said, there is not much fun in *The Grasshopper*, and *A Night of Terror*, at the Folly may be favourably contrasted with it as a vehicle for the introduction of mere boisterous fun. All the old ingredients are here, and those who can laugh at the time-honoured concealments of lovers from jealous husbands, in cupboards and chests, and under tables, at a general chase of each other by all the performers, and at the violent disruption of the first low comedian's garments, will find these contrivances for amusement well put into effect by Mr. W. J. Hill and Mr. John Howson. All this is very poor art, no doubt, but it is at least a step in advance of—besides being more amusing than—what is mis-called opera bouffe, in that it enlists the services of real actors, and not mere undressed puppets.

The Gaiety, which has lately been very successful in attracting the public, is this season able to dispense with the services of Mr. Toole, who has gone to the Globe. We ventured a year ago to believe that Mr. Toole had somewhat lost his hold on London playgoers, and should be tempted to see in this a condemnation of the star system, had we not before us the spectacle of Mr. Irving, who, in a weak play, and with the support of a weak company, is able to fill the Lyceum. But perhaps he is at present the only actor on the stage whose popularity can enable him to shine alone. At the Olympic Mr. Neville has revived *The Turn of the Tide*, a play which, on its first production about eight years ago, possessed the double peculiarity of having its sensation scene in the first act, and of being able to fill for months the unlucky Queen's Theatre. Its revival at the Olympic is characterised by excellent scenery and creditabie acting; but it is chiefly remarkable as clearly showing that the gap in the theatrical profession caused by the loss of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews has not yet been filled up.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

We regret to learn, on the authority of Mr. Beckett, the Secretary, that the Glasgow Western Chess Club has ceased to exist.

S. H. THOMAS.—Thanks for Problems. We note with pleasure your promise of further contributions.

IGNORAMUS.—Solutions of Problems correct.

T. T.—The Problems submitted are not considered up to your usual standard. We shall be glad of one or two of your best compositions.

WHIST.

PARIS A.— Supply proper credentials to the president, and you will find all you want at the Washington Club, 4 Place de l'Opera.

B. (Brighton).—Your bookseller can get the scoring cards from Hunt's Limited, Playhouse Yard, Barbican, E.C.

R.—2nd hand with Knave and 2 small ones. Small card led—play the smallest; not the Knave.

J. and B.—A lowers his cards so that the cards, although held in the hand, can be seen by all the players. A has two trumps. The best and 3rd best. B, A's partner, leads a Club, on which A proposes to play the small trump, Z last player, says, "No. I call the best trump, as an exposed card." Can Z call the best trump? *Ans:*—This case was decided by the late Mr. Clay and Cavendish in the *Field* Dec., 23rd 1871, in the negative. Mogul strongly protested against the decision as montrous at the time, *see* pp. 164, 165, of Vol. 4. We agreed with Mogul that the cards are in the language of the code exposed on or above the table, and we have hitherto found no other construction to be put on these words. We contend that this is the way to expose cards above the table intended by the framers of the code. They could scarcely be legislating for jugglers throwing cards in the air and catching them, and we consider that Cavendish reduced the matter to an absurdity when he wrote "It may be said then that the player may intentionally lower his cards so that his partner may see them, without any card penalty, we think he may." The decision is one that we are unable to follow.

M. B. P. (Charlestown)—1. The American edition of I. C. we have never seen, but as to leading the Honour with three small cards it is clearly wrong. See p. 44, 2nd edition:—"With an honour and three or more small cards, lead the lowest." 2. It is not good to play an honour 2nd hand on a small card led either in trumps or plain suits when you have an honour and a small card of that suit only. It is bad to do so with the King, and it is worse to do so with Queen or Knave.

H. B. St. James's Street.—B does not follow suit to his partner's lead of Clubs, and A, leading quickly the same suit, asks B, if he has a Club. B says "Yes I have," and, the first trick not having been gathered, he takes back the "nine of Hearts" with which he has revoked, and plays a Club. He then takes up the trick and leaves his "nine of Hearts" on the table, as an exposed card. It was obviously a revoke. But C and D allowed B to substitute, or certainly made no objection to his doing so, a card of the suit led in place of the card which constituted the revoke, and did not claim a revoke or say one word on the subject till the end of the hand. The question arises "did or did not C and D condone the revoke by allowing the substitution of the card, and by not claiming a revoke at the time?"—*Ans.* The adversaries permit B to take back his card and substitute another, and the card improperly played and which caused the revoke, is left as an exposed card. We think the adversaries condoned the revoke.

L.—A and B play against C and D. D leads Diamond, A plays Knave of Heart, and then says, I beg your pardon, moves to take it up, D says leave it on the table (thinking he has a Diamond,) but A plays then two of Spades, D says, play the Knave of Heart and leave the two of Spades on the table, treating both as exposed cards, has D a right to do it? A says D ought to have said when he took up the Knave of Heart, no Diamond, play Knave of Heart, not waiting whether he has a Diamond or whether he wants to throw away another card. —*Ans.* A had no right to take up the Heart Knave. He could only change the card on the assumption that he has a Diamond, and to save the revoke. The Heart Knave must be played to the current trick, and the Spade 2 is an exposed card.

We are glad to see that *The Week*, published at Brisbane, has started a Whist column. The number before us contains one of Mr. F. H. Lewis's beautiful Double Dummy problems. It has always been a source of wonder to us, that whilst we have so many Chess, we have no Whist columns.

C. D.—It is a catch bet.

WASHINGTON CLUB.—A and B are partners at Whist against X and Z. Score four all. A deals and turns up a Heart as trump. X leads a Spade, B discards a Club. Before A plays to the trick, he demands of his partner to look over his hand to assure himself that he has no Spade, B looks and declares himself free of Spades. Later in the game B plays the Ace of Spades and in explanation, says he overlooked it. A and B lose the game, although they make twelve tricks. A demands that his partner B shall pay the stakes. B declines to do so. Has A a *right* to demand such a penalty?—*Ans.* No. You take a partner with all his faults.

LOO.

S. G. E.—No one can tell you a stand hand without knowing the pool, the amount of Loo, and the number of Stand hands. To play without taking these things into consideration, is to play on what a friend of ours calls "a priori" principles, and we should think if you thus play, you had better give up the game before you lose your money. If you are to take your full chance, of the game you must take miss judiciously. If you will not take her, and will only play on what you call a certainty, the money you put in for singles and for the deal, will waste all your resources. Any one may win. Cards will beat their makers, but it is nonsense to think that there is no play in Loo.

POKER.

M. & B.—A and B are left in. They bet, one against the other, until A says he will see B. B then says, "A straight;" A says "not good," and puts down three Aces. B has in his hand a full, and claims the money. Can he do so?—*Ans.* The cards speak, and they govern the result. As soon as the betting has ceased there should be an end to talk. B should have placed his cards on the table at once.

PICQUET.

R. R.—B leaves a card and looks at it. A declares to play Diamonds, looks at the card left, and instead of leading a Diamond leads a Club. Is there any penalty after B has played to the Club?—*Ans.* A has committed an irregularity, for which, we think, he cannot be punished after B has played to the card improperly led. When A led the wrong suit B should have stopped him and made A play the suit B desired, and this is a sufficient punishment for the act complained of.

MAX.—Score 55 to 80. Knave, 10, 9, 8, 7 S; Knave, 10, Club; Knave 10, 8, Heart; Knave, 7 Diamond; Elder hand. What is the discard?—*Ans.* There seems no discard but the 4 loose cards keeping the minor quint and the Knaves. The quint is good, but it is very improbable that in 4 cards you will take Ace, King and Queen. Still it cannot be helped.

B. & S.—A and B play Picquet Rubicon. It is A's deal. In the middle of the game, B calls for new cards. Who has the choice of packs?—*Ans.* The dealer. According to the Cavendish code B could not call for new cards after the cards were cut for the deal.

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The Westminster Papers.

1st FEBRUARY, 1878.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

PERHAPS the most interesting episode of metropolitan Chess to be recorded this month is the announcement contained in a letter addressed to us by Mr. Medley, upon the subject of the late Herr Lowenthal's bequest for the diffusion of Chess. We refer our readers to the letter in question, which will be found upon another page of this issue; but its effect may not inappropriately be summarized here. It was the intention of the late Herr Lowenthal, that the principal sum representing the residue of a fund subscribed some years ago for his benefit, should be invested in perpetuity, and that the income accruing from it should be applied by trustees in whatever manner seemed best to them for the cultivation and spread of Chess. It appears, however, that the testator was never legally possessed of this money in his lifetime, and could not, therefore, have any power to dispose of it by his last will. The assets, of which he was indisputably possessed at the time of his death, did not, when realized, suffice to discharge the claims upon them, so that the executors found themselves called upon to deal with a deficit instead of administering a surplus. In this curious dilemma it has happily so fallen out that the executor under the will which devises nothing, and the trustee of the Benevolent Fund, which amounts to £274, is one and the same person, Mr. Medley. Mr. Medley has wisely determined to apply the money in his hands to the advancement of Chess in his own time, ignoring the sentimental regard for posterity enjoined by the conditions of a somewhat impracticable will. In pursuance of this design he has placed ten pounds at our disposal for prizes in a problem competition, and £100 pounds will be devoted to a game tourney—probably a Challenge Prize—to be played under the auspices of the St. George's Chess Club. There will be no disposition to question, even if the right to do so existed in any quarter, the wisdom of the course Mr. Medley has adopted. After his many services to the game he may well be excused from the task of doling out the petty income likely to accrue from a fund so small, and every one will recognise the force of his observation regarding the hopelessness of securing a pure administration of the fund for all time.

The return of Mr. Bird to London, from the United States of America, was celebrated at the City of London Chess Club on Monday, the 28th ultimo. During the proceedings, which are fully reported in this issue by another hand, the Guest of the evening received the heartiest congratulations from an assemblage that included all the representative English Chess players residing in London. Mr. Bird's sojournment with our American Cousins was not one of unmixed enjoyment, but we were glad to hear him bear witness to their chivalrous spirit, and to the fraternal character of the welcome they are ever ready to extend to English Chess players.

The second meeting of the Lincolnshire Chess Association was held at Grantham in the first week of the past month, and it attracted the attendance of ladies and gentlemen of the highest social importance in the county, as well as a goodly number of the best provincial amateur Chess players. The Mayor of the borough, Mr. Charles Barker, placed the Guildhall at the service of the Association, and the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Earl Brownlow, presided at the public luncheon held in the course of the meeting at the Angel Hotel. There were three

tourneys on even terms for players of three classes of force. a handicap tourney, and one in which the normal positions of the Bishops and Knights at the commencement of the game were transposed. The several tourneys were open to amateurs only, a regulation that we hope to see adopted in all country meetings. The following are the prize winners :—

EVEN TOURNEY.

First class.

F. S. Ensor, £10, and a silver cup presented by Prince Leopold.
E. Thorold, £5.
Rev. A. C. Rowley, £2.

Second class.

A. Marriott, £7.
Rev. W. L. Newham, } Entrance fees divided.
Miss Rudge, }

Third class.

— Padgett } Entrance fees divided.
— Johnson, }

HANDICAP TOURNEY.

Rev. C. E. Ranken, £5 (given by Earl Brownlow).
E. Thorold—Entrance fees.

DISPLACEMENT TOURNEY.

F. S. Ensor, £5 5s.
Rev. C. E. Ranken, } Equal scores, and the prizes.
Rev. A. B. Skipworth, } Entrance fees divided.
Rev. W. L. Newham, }

A prize for the most brilliant game played at the meeting, £2 2s., given by Mr. I. O. H. Taylor, of Norwich, was awarded to the Rev. A. B. Skipworth. The game will be found in another part of this number.

The public luncheon, at which the Earl of Brownlow presided, was held at the Angel Hotel. The speeches delivered on the occasion were remarkable for good sense, the rather redundant glorification of the game and its practitioners, so common in affairs of this kind, being conspicuously absent. The loyal toasts were proposed by Lord Brownlow. "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," who take a warm interest in Chess, was deservedly lauded by the Mayor of Louth, and Mr. F. S. Ensor, in responding to the toast of the prize winners, recounted some of the incidents of a recent visit to Egypt. There were many other toasts, chief among them being "The Ladies," coupled with the name of Miss Rudge, one of the successful competitors in the second class tourney.

The Annual Report of the Liverpool Chess Club represents that the Club is in a flourishing condition. Twenty-one members are battling for supremacy in the tourney of the season. The annual match with the Manchester Club resulted in a draw, and notwithstanding the expenses attending two removals—two removals are worse than a fire—there is a handsome surplus in the hands of the treasurer. Mr. H. E. Kidson is the President, and Mr. Wright the honorary Secretary of the Club for the current year.

A match between the Clubs of Chichester and Littlehampton was played at the rooms of the latter Association on the 6th ultimo. Chichester was victorious in the encounter, as appears by the following score :—

CHICHESTER	WON	LITTLEHAMPTON	WON	DRAWN
Sergeant-Major McArthur	2	Dr. Vines	1	0
Colour-Sergeant Woods	1	Walker	1	0
" " Scott	2	Leppard	1	1
Donner, Senior	1	Butt	1	0
Donner, Junior	3	Mrs. Whitmarsh	0	0
Clement	0	Evershed	1	0
Bullard	3	Witham	0	0
Lucus	1	Foy	0	0
	13		5	1

The lady appears to have been over-matched on this occasion, but we have been informed fought a good battle nevertheless.

A new Chess Problem Association has been formed with the view of publishing from time to time the best contemporary problems. It is proposed that the new Society shall comprise English and foreign composers, and to meet the expenses of publication, members desirous of publishing their problems under the auspices of the new organization shall subscribe to its exchequer at the rate of five shillings for each of his problems. The first collection will be issued as soon as possible, probably next year, and succeeding volumes will follow as speedily as may be consistent with the object in view—collecting and preserving the best problems of the period. Intending subscribers should address Mr. James Pierce, Copthill House, Bedford, who will furnish all particulars of the projected scheme.

The committee of the British Chess Problem Association are making good progress with the arrangements for the tourney with which they propose to innaugurate the new Society. The name of Mr. W. T. Pierce was omitted from the list of gentlemen comprising the judges, published in our January number.

The current number of *La Stratégie* is the first instalment of the eleventh volume. Besides the usual number of fine games and problems, it contains an account of the annual dinner of the City of London Chess Club, contributed by M. Delannoy, and an announcement that M. Rosenthal will play eight games simultaneously, *sans voir*, on the 10th instant. Spectators will be charged an admission fee of five francs, and for reserved seats ten francs. We shall be curious to learn how this sort of thing answers in France, meantime we feel assured that such a speculation would not have a chance of succeeding in England.

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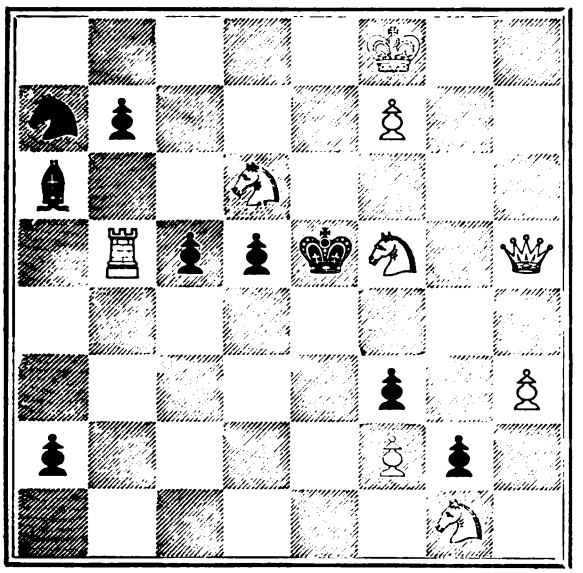

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

La Stratégie also announced that a committee of management in connection with the proposed International Tournament to be held in Paris next summer has been constituted, and that a programme of the affair will be published next month.

The *Deutsche Shachzeitung* for January contains a portrait and an interesting autobiographical sketch of Herr Berger, the renowned problem composer. The fine composition in the margin has been dedicated by Herr Berger to Herren Kohtz and Kockelkorn.

There is a special interest in the news from the States this month, in the award of the Committee elected to adjudicate upon the merits of the competitors in the *Hartford Times* Literary Tourney. We are under obligations to Mr. Belden for advance sheets of the award, which, in view of the interest the novel contest has excited, we quote *in extenso*.

To the CHESS EDITOR of the "HARTFORD TIMES."

At length, after a delay which an inexorable fate has rendered too protracted, we have been enabled to complete our examinations of the articles entered for competition in your Literary Tourney, and trust that earnest and careful considerations, combined with unbiassed inclinations and an anxious solicitude to render an impartial judgement, will have proved directing influences to a correct and satisfactory fulfilment of the delicate task assigned to us. Impressed with a lively appreciation of your efforts in behalf of the literature of our noble game, we have endeavoured not to mar the success of your enterprise by the dispensation of erroneous awards; and, while it may not be essential to describe in detail the process pursued in the discharge of our duty, we deem it but proper to state that the conclusions arrived at have been attained through diligent and untrammelled investigations by each member of the committee, whose ultimate interchange of opinions revealed a singular unanimity in the selection and arrangement of the most worthy competitions.

Classified under their special heads we find the entries to comprise : 'Eight Stories,' 'Seven Essays,' and 'Twelve Poems; making a total number of twenty-seven pieces. Two of these, which appear to be juvenile efforts, have been reviewed in their original manuscript forms, and found undeserving of further consideration ; but the remaining twenty-five have been carefully weighed in accordance with their inherent evidences of possessing the requisite elements of literary excellence—viz.: Originality or creative power, skilful treatment of the theme, perspicuity and elegance of diction, purity and force of sentiment—and their intimacy with the leading subject, the game of Chess.

Tried by these canons article No. XXV., entitled 'The two Knights' Defence,' evinces a conspicuous superiority over its rivals, and we have no hesitation in awarding to it the prize offered for the best Story. The author manifests a literary ability of a high order, and he has succeeded in creating an attractive tale, marked by a pleasing uniformity of style, a graphic delineation of incidents and characters, and an interest that is well-sustained throughout its many chapters. Prominent among the competing articles for this prize the following were found worthy of deep consideration, and are deserving of an honourable mention No. XIX., 'The Chess-Player's Recompense; No. XXIV., 'Chess in a New Garment;' No. VII., 'Give the Devil his Due,' and No. XVI., 'Pawns.'

Of the Essays we must yield the palm of victory to No XIII, 'The World's Chess Champions;' a contribution giving every evidence of consummate skill, keen perception, and an intimate acquaintance with the subject and with the peculiar characteristics and idiosyncrasies of the nations passed in review. The style is fluent and forcible; and, though some of the assertions and arguments adduced by the writer may be controvertible, he has summoned both tact and logical reasoning to the defence of the position he has taken. Next in the order of merit we would place No. XXII., 'American Chess Problems,' which for instructiveness and ability in treatment, is eminently deserving of commendation, No. XX., 'Chess Similes,' and No. IX., 'An Essay on Chess,' though exhibiting defects which may have resulted from inattentiveness, or hasty execution, seem worthy of an honourable mention.

In the domain of 'Poetry' the discriminating powers of your committee have been more severely tried, and a slight diversity of opinion with regard to the relative precedence of two or three of the leading competitions was determined by a

majority vote, which pronounced in favour of No. XVII., 'The Final Mate,' as entitled to the foremost position. In the perusal of this poem our sensibilities have been deeply impressed by the pathetic tenderness and poetic fancy which pervade the entire structure, and seem to exhale from it like the perfume from its own sweet-briar. With a smoothly flowing rhythm it combines simplicity, spirituality, and pathos—elements so essential to true poetry, but so difficult, apparently, to associate with the hard, matter-of-fact game of Chess. No. II., 'Mated,' is accorded the honor of the second place in our esteem, and might have successfully asserted its claim to the higher rank had it been free from blemishes in style and treatment, which, from the general ability displayed by the author, we must believe are due in a great measure to the extreme length of the poem. Some of the incidents in the narrative seem unnatural or highly improbable, and the local and personal allusions tend merely to complete the destruction of its harmony. No. X., 'Caissa's Field of the Cloth of Gold,' presents a more ambitious style, and in its delineation of the stern realities of war is exceedingly clear and effective, but its protraiture of the battle at Chess seems florid and confused. No. XV., 'The Queen and Jester'; No. VIII., 'A Chess Manœuvre'; No. V. 'Caissa and Her Children,' and No. XI., 'Twin Games,' were also found to possess merit entitling them to prominence and esteem.

The task of the literary critic is one of extreme difficulty, and requires for its proper performance an aggregate of moral and intellectual accomplishments which but few really possess. We have felt an intense need of these all important attributes in the prosecution of our labours, and while fully conscious that their absence cannot be compensated by the utmost integrity of purpose, we yet earnestly trust that the decision formed will prove to be just and satisfactory to yourself, and to the many competitors who must necesssarily feel a still deeper interest in our verdict.

Permit us, in concluding this report, to congratulate you upon the eminent success that has attended this initial effort to promote and stimulate a taste in a department of Chess literature that has hitherto found few aspirants. When it is considered how comparatively unbroken was the field that has been furrowed, the resultant fruit will be found both ample and agreeable.

New York, January 7th, 1878. CHAS. A. GILBERG, AUGUSTUS BLANVELT, MRS. J. W. GILBERT.

Appended to the judges' report, Mr. Belden gives the names of the successful competitors, among which we are heartily glad to see that of one of the most respected members of the Chess fraternity in London, Mr. A. Delannoy.

The author of the prize poem, 'The Final Mate,' is Mrs H. Bryant Hazeltine, better known to the world of Chess as 'Phania.' The author of the prize story, 'The Two Knights' Defence,' is Mr. Joseph Wainwright, of Walpole, Mass. The gentleman who carried off the honours in the matter of essays, 'The World's Chess Champions,' is Mr. Alphonse Delannoy, of London. In poems, No II., 'Mated,' the second choice of the committee, was written by Miss Mary K. Atwood, of Newington, this state. No X., 'Caissa's Field of the Cloth of Gold,' which the committee next favour, is Miron's contribution to the Tourney. 'The Queen and Jester' and 'Caissa and Her Children' were written by Joseph Wainwright; 'Twin Games,' by Jacob Elson, and 'A Chess Manœuvre' by Samuel W. Duffield. Of the stories, 'The Chess Player's Recompense,' 'Chess in a new garment,' 'Give the Devil His Due' and 'Pawns,' were written respectively by F. J. Keyes, Mary A. Little, F. M. Teed and Samuel W. Duffield.

In the list of essays accorded honourable mention, 'American Chess Problems' was written by the Rev. L. W. Mudge; 'Chess Similes' by F. H. Curtiss; and 'An Essay on Chess' by F. J. Keyes.

We congratulate the successful competitors, and only regret that the monetary consideration is not commensurate with their efforts to advance the literature of Chess. And to the other writers whose contributions so materially aided in making the tourney successful, we cannot refrain from saying that to you, in a great measure, belongs the credit, to quote the committee, "of the eminent success that has attended this initial effort to promote and stimulate a taste in a department of Chess literature that has hitherto found few aspirants."

There has been plenty of play amongst and between the local clubs of the metropolis during the past month. This is an advantage that London possesses over the provinces. An inter-club match in the country is rather a formidable affair, and only to be arranged at a great expense of time, trouble, and money. In town it is different, and two secretaries meaning business find it fairly easy to get up a contest over the board between the associations they represent. Coming to details of the month's doings we find that on the 4th January, a match took place with twelve players a side between the Bermondsey and the Peckham Mutual. The fight took place at the Collyer Memorial School, and ended in favour of the first-named club by four games. Peckham, however, must be considered to have made a remarkably good stand, seeing the team opposed to them was headed by such strong players as Messrs. Beardsell, Keates, Watts, Philp, and Dredge. On the 5th a battle royal took place belween the Eclectic and the Athenæum, the two most energetic of the local clubs. The former were victorious by 12 games to 4 with 3 draws. This must be most severe defeat sustained by the Athenæum since a long time. However, as the following score will show, their two best players, Messrs. Seymour and Baxter, were absent. This was unfortunate, and certainly a struggle between two such rivals ought to have been supported by the full strength of each.

ECLECTIC.	WON.	DRAWN.	ATHENÆUM.	WON.
Mr. Hoon	2	0	Dr. Batt	0
„ Heming	0	1	Mr. Inman	1
„ Lurcott	1	1	„ Griffith	0
„ W. Poley	1	0	„ Rogers	1
„ G. Gibbs	0	1	„ Hamlyn	1
„ Chase	2	0	„ Smith	0
„ E. Schmidt	1	0	„ Swainson	0
„ Palmer	2	0	„ Marriage	0
„ H. Schmidt	2	0	„ Scrivener	0
„ A. Poley	1	0	„ Thompson	1
	12	3		4

On the 9th of January, the Kentish Town played the St. James's, at the rooms of the former in Wilkin Street, N.W.; victory favoured the home team, who scored 8 to 2. On the 14th, the Athenæum tried results with the Ibis, the former won 7 games to 3. On the 15th, Herr Zukertort played a blindfold match against ten members of the Old Change Club. He succeeded in winning all the games, a capital performance undoubtedly. We are afflicted in our mind concerning the fate of a would-be visitor who made his appearance at the City Chess Club under the impression that the exhibition was to take place there. Did that solitary wanderer ultimately arrive at the goal of his hopes, or was he lost in the mazes of Little Britain? Perhaps the Beadle of Bartholomew Close took pity on the disconsolate waif, and guided him to the halls of dazzling light, where the performer who needed none, and the lief players to whom it was of no use, could be seen. On the other hand it is just possible that the Guardian of the Close, though no doubt cognizant of all things pertaining to his beat, might be ignorant of what was going on round the corner, and if so, how did it fare with the hapless inquirer. It is this consideration which fills our mind with anxious suspense. On the 19th, the Athenæum champions marched to Eden Grove, where they found the Knights of St. James's waiting for them. We know not how many fights were fought, but the visitors won by seven games. On the same day the Kentish Town players went to Euston Road to try the metal of Saint Pancras. The home team no doubt did their best, and the best can do no more; but there was pleasure in Wilkin Street when the returning warriors spoke of $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$. The 19th was quite a day of battles, for it witnessed yet another contest, viz., between the Greenwich and Peckham Clubs, won by the former, whose score was 6 to 3, and 1 draw. On the 22nd the Saint James's came down to Canonbury Tower to play the Eclectic. The latter were signally victorious, for out of 6 games they won 5 and drew 1. On the 24th the Athenæum played the Railway Clearing House, and the former were victorious by 8 games to 5, with 1 draw. The following table furnishes the names of the players as they were paired, and the scores they made:—

Athenæum	Won	Drawn	Railway Clearing House	Won
Dr. Batt	1	0	Mr. Knight	1
Mr. Griffith	2	0	„ Tarrant	0
„ Rogues	1	0	„ Hill	1
„ Blurton	0	1	„ Kindell, Senior	1
„ Hamlyn	2	0	„ Hoare	0
„ Smith	1	0	„ Tassell	0
„ Smith	1	0	„ Templeton	0
„ Thompson	0	0	„ Kindell, Junior	2
	8	1		5

On the 26th of January the Jewish Chess Club fought with the Athenæum. This was a severe test for the Camden Road players, for the association, represented by their opponents, is probably the strongest of the metropolitan local clubs. Bermondsey may demur, but we fancy it is so. The Athenæum made a good fight, and though not successful, were very far from suffering an inglorious defeat. The Jewish players won by 8 games to 6, with 2 draws; one of these games fell to them by adjudication. The position so adjudged lies before us as we write, and we must say that it is one which ought, if possible, to have been played out. It is an end game between Mr. Baxter, of the Athenæum, and Mr. Mocatta, of the Jewish Club. Mr. Blackburne, before whose notice the position was brought, considered it to be in favour of Mr. Baxter; but the appointed arbiter thought otherwise. He came to the conclusion that by analysis it was a win for Mr. Mocatta. Adjudications ought, as much as possible, to be avoided. The position which now lies upon our table is one that, in our opinion, ought to have been fought out, and if it had been we imagine that analysis could not be backed, save at the shortest odds. Another match took place on the 26th, viz., between the Bermondsey and Greenwich Clubs. The former won by four games to two; but their two stronger representatives, viz., Messrs. Beardsell and Weaver, lost their games, the former to Mr. Forrest and the latter to Mr. Morris. The North London lately played with and beat the Catholic Young Men's Institute. We do not know the date of this contest, and have but a vague idea of the score, though we rather think it was six to three. Whether or not the North London played any other matches during the last month is a question we cannot solve. The secretary never sends us any particulars, and presumably he disapproves of publicity. A correspondent having asked us for the address of the North London, we, in our December number, replied, according to the best information in our power. One of the members of that Club is of opinion that we made what he is pleased to call a "mess" of it. It appears that we gave the address of the late Secretary, Mr. Bryce. We are very sorry, and meekly apologise. We are aware that it is our business to know intuitively the addresses of all Chess clubs, whether secretaries foreswear pens or otherwise. We now beg to state that the North London meets at "The Mitford," Sandringham Road, Dalston. It may interest some of our readers to learn that Chess is played every Tuesday evening at the London Institution, Finsbury Circus. This custom has, we believe, prevailed there ever since the librarian, Mr. Nicholson, himself one of the checkmating fraternity, was installed into office. Others may like to know that the game is in vogue amongst the young men who attend at the Little Oratory, Brompton.

The Handicap Tournament at the Jewish Chess Club has come to an end with the following result: First

prize, Mr. Gunzberg; second prize, Mr. Pfahl; third prize, Mr. Perez; fourth prize, Mr. Israel. The handicap at the City Club is in its last stages. In Division A, playing for first and second prizes, there are but six combatants left—viz., Messrs. Eschwege and Potter—who await a fresh drawing, and the following pairs: Huckvale *v.* Lord, who have won a game each, and Botterill *v.* Long, who have won a game each, with a draw. In Division B, playing for third and fourth prizes, there are five competitors remaining—viz., Messrs. George, Earle and Heywood, who are ready for the next round, and a pair still fighting—viz., Clarke *v.* Walthew. Two other contests have been set on foot at the City Club—viz., an Even Tourney of third class players and a Junior Handicap, wherefrom the first and second classes and the stronger members of the third class will be excluded.

The *Holloway Press* goes on doing very good work. Indeed, it has made itself such an invaluable medium to the metropolitan match playing clubs as to have become quite indispensable in that behalf. It has now assumed a very "Chessy" appearance, for its first problem with a diagram was published in the number of 26th January. The position is a four mover by Kieseritzki. We should have imagined that something easier would better suit the body of possible problem amateurs whom it is desirable not to frighten at first starting.

On the 28th of January the City of London Club celebrated Mr. Bird's return to England with a supper. Mr. Gastineau presided, and Mr. Manning occupied the vice-chair. Amongst those present besides the guest of the evening were Messrs. Boden, Duffy, Blackburne, MacDonnell, Potter, Delannoy H. F. Down, R. Clark, &c. After supper Mr. Gastineau in the warmest terms proposed the health of Mr. Bird, and the toast was received with a demonstrative exhibition of applause, whereto were added musical honours rendered in the most vigorous manner possible. Mr. Bird in the course of an unaffected speech spoke of the gratification afforded to him by such a reception, and then proceeded to give a few details of his American experiences. He considered that he had experienced much kindness at the hands of many in the States, but he particularly instanced Mr. Perrin and Mr. Barnes, of these two gentlemen he evidently had the very highest opinion. Mr. Bird then went on to speak of his stay in Canada, and he grew extremely enthusiastic concerning the Chessists of that colony. He especially expressed his appreciation of Mr. Workman, of Montreal, and mentioned that in a couple of months that gentleman would be in England. Other toasts followed, viz. that of Mr. Duffy, proposed by Mr. Boden in well-chosen terms easily and tranquilly delivered; Mr. Potter by Mr. Bird; Mr. Blackburne, by the Rev. Mr. Williams; and Mr. Boden by Mr. Manning. The response to the latter toast was in Mr. Boden's own style, quiet, effective, and unconstrained. He alluded to bygone times, contrasted the present and the past generation of Chess players, and paid the City Club the compliment of considering it the present abode of Chess. Altogether a very agreeable evening was passed, and as contributors to the general pleasure must be mentioned Messrs. Chinnery, Church, Heywood, Pizzi, and Gastineau, who obliged with songs, There would probably have been more speeches, and undoubtedly more songs, for the company showed little disposition for making a move, but the clock put in a stern negative.

On the 30th of January, a match took place between the Shaftesbury Club, and the City of London Knight Class. There were six players on each side, and the civic representatives won by 7 games to 3 with 1 draw.

Mr. Potter has been elected an Honorary member of the Bermondsey Chess Club, and we are informed has accepted the honour.

In reply to several correspondents, we state here that books of Chess diagrams, 50 in each, price one shilling, may be procured post free, from the Civil Service Printing and Publishing Company, 8, Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

THE LOWENTHAL BEQUEST.

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

DEAR SIR,—As you are aware, Mr. Lowenthal left a will in which he directed his executors and trustees, the late Mr. Rimington Wilson and myself, to apply the annual income of any sum that might be realised from his estate after the settlement of his affairs "in such manner as the trustees shall deem most conducive to the diffusion and advancement of the game of Chess."

You are also aware that the assets did not quite cover the liabilities, and that a small deficiency, about £20, was made up out of another fund. This fund arose out of a subscription made some three or four years ago by some of Mr. Lowenthal's friends, principally members of the St. George's Club, who in recognition of his long services in the cause of Chess were anxious to solace his declining years. The administration of this fund was confided to me, and out of it Mr. Lowenthal received certain moneys up to the time of his death. After payment of the deficiency on his estate there remains in my hands a sum of £274, and the question arises, what shall be done with it? This money formed no part of Mr. Lowenthal's estate, and, therefore, is not in law subject to the terms of his will, which only apply to a fund which does not exist. I feel very anxious to

carry out, as far as possible, the wishes of our deceased friend, but in contemplating the task I am met with several considerations. The will, although placing the income of the fund at the absolute discretion of the trustees, contemplates of necessity the conservation of the principal for all time. Now, if such a trust could be for ever honestly and ably managed, the wishes of the deceased might be carried out; but sooner or later, abuses would, in my humble opinion, be sure to crop up, as they have done in analogous cases, and things would, in course of time, be done anything but consistent with those wishes. This, to me, is a potent argument against the constitution of a permanent fund. Then, as I am trustee, the burden of the administration would be thrown upon me for the rest of my life, and this is a responsibility, I am not willing to undertake. In these circumstances and with the view of benefiting the living generation of players, those who have known Mr. Lowenthal, and leaving posterity to take care of itself, I have determined on expending the fund within some reasonable time. With this view I have placed a sum, the amount of which is not yet fixed, at the disposal of the Committee of the St. George's Club, to be used by them as a fund for a Chess tournament to be held this year, or for any object connected with the promotion of the game which they may think more desirable; and I now place a further sum of £10 at your disposal for the promotion of a problem tournament, the conditions of which shall be fixed by you with the sole proviso that it shall be open to the world.

Yours truly, GEORGE W. MEDLEY.

P.S.—Since the above was in type I have been in communication with St. George's Club, and it is in contemplation to establish a Challenge Cup or Plate, to be held for one year. The value will be £105, and the scheme to be drawn up forthwith. G. W. M.

In pursuance of the terms of Mr. Medley's letter we announce the conditions of

THE LOWENTHAL PROBLEM TOURNEY.

1. The Competition shall be open to problem composers of all nations.
2. The problems to be original, to be ordinary mates, and the solutions to be in two, three, or four moves.
3. Each competitor to send three problems, clearly described upon diagrams, accompanied by full solutions, and enclosed in an envelope bearing a distinguishing device or motto, and not the author's name.
4. Each competitor to send with the problems a sealed envelope containing his name and address, and endorsed with the motto corresponding with that affixed to the problems. These envelopes shall not be opened until after the payment of the prizes.
5. The problems to be sent to the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS, 46, Cannon Street, London, E.C., as follows:—

   From composers resident in the United Kingdom on or before the 20th April, 1878.
   From composers resident on the Continent of Europe, the Dominion of Canada, and the United States of America the 20th May, 1878.
   From composers resident elsewhere the 20th August, 1878.

6. Problems, the joint composition of two or more authors, will be disqualified.
7. The problems, after undergoing a preliminary examination, will be published in this journal at the rate of three sets per month, and at the expiration of one month after the publication of the last set the prizes will be awarded.
8. The judges will be Messrs. P. T. Duffy and W. T. Pierce, and in the event of any difference of opinion arising between them, Mr. F. H. Lewis will act as umpire.
9. The decision of the judges or umpire shall be final upon the publication of their award.

Three prizes are offered, viz., First Prize £5, Second Prize £3, Third Prize £2.

In addition to these prizes we have been authorized by Mr. A. E. Studd to offer £2 for the best two move problem, and we shall ourselves give a complete set of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS to the author of the best problem in three moves. The problems competing for the two last-mentioned prizes may be part of the sets of three, or may be sent in separately at the option of the competitor.

Any editor of a Chess magazine or Chess column, desiring to publish the problems contributed to this tourney will be supplied from time to time with copies of a set in advance of their publication in this journal, on application to the Editor, 46, Cannon Street, London, E.C.; but notwithstanding their publication elsewhere, all the problems that stand the test of the preliminary examination will be published in THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

For the information of intending competitors it is deemed expedient to state here that the judges will deal with dual moves in the following manner:—

1. Duals arising on the first move of the solution will disqualify the problem, and the set in which such problem appears.
2. Duals arising on the succeeding moves will not disqualify the problem, but will nevertheless be regarded *prima facie* as a defect, and will then be considered from the stand-point whether their occurrence is unavoidable or otherwise, and how far their existence affects the idea sought to be embodied in the composition.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. 986.—By J. PAUL TAYLOR.

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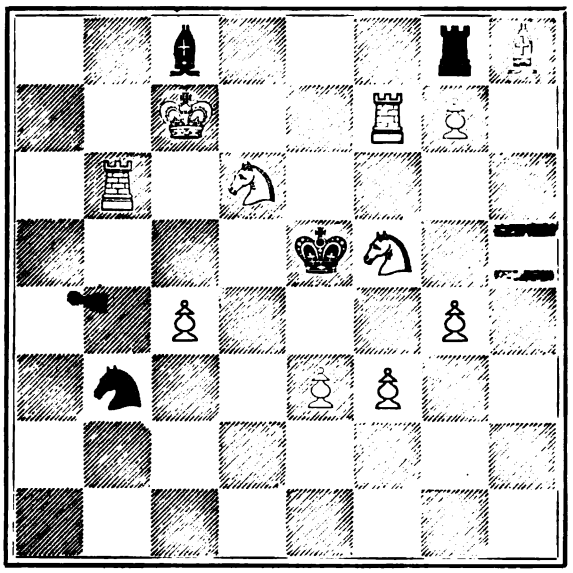
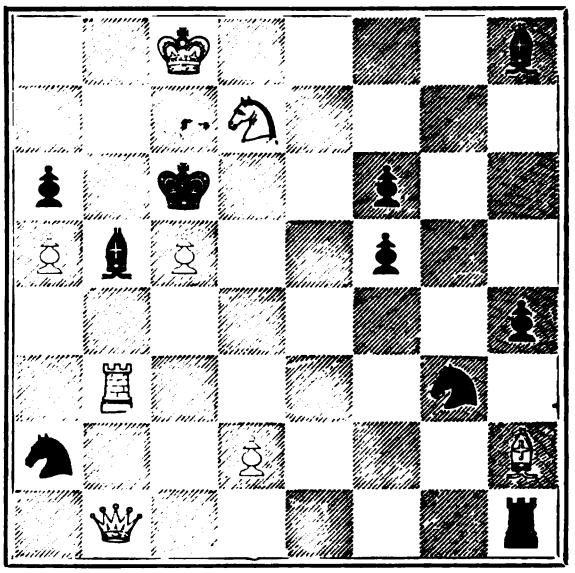


WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 987.—By D. W. CLARK (of Siberia).

BLACK.

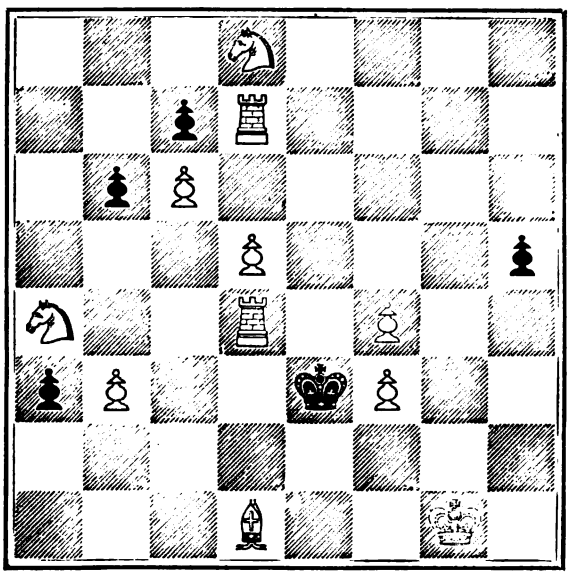


WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 988.—By G. J. SLATER.

BLACK.

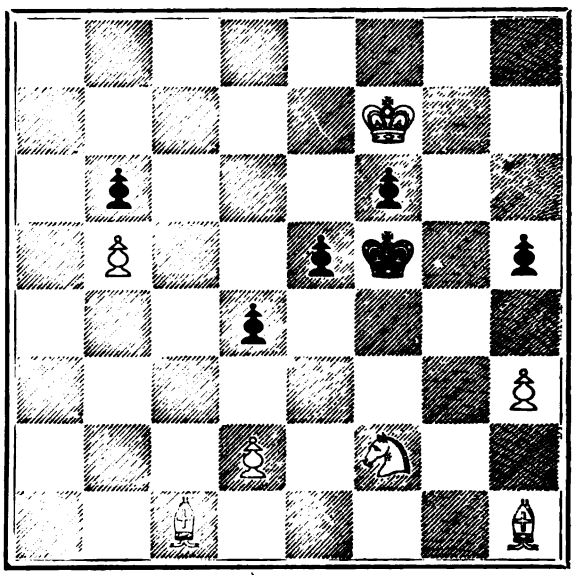


WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 989.—By S. H. THOMAS.

BLACK.



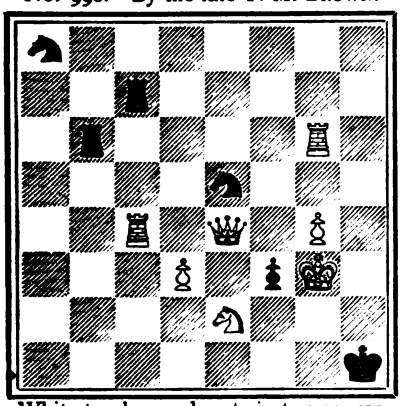
WHITE.

White to play and mate in five moves.

Competing Problems in "Lebanon Herald" Tourney.

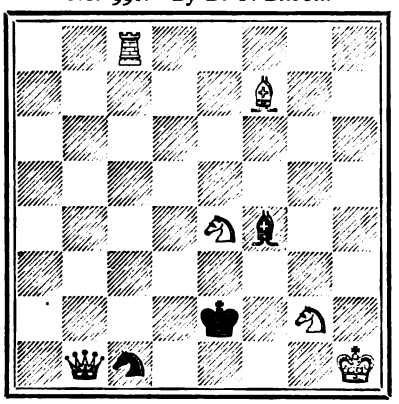
From "Chess Century."

No. 990.—By the late T. M. Brown.



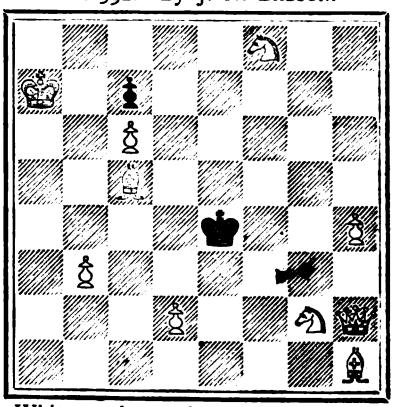
White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 991.—By D. T. Brock.



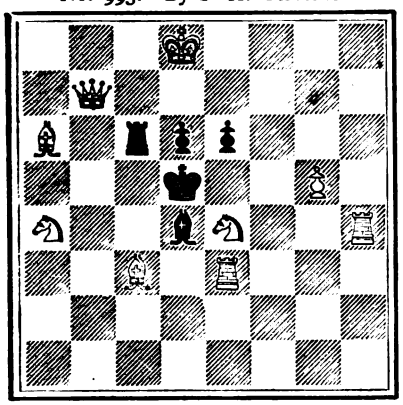
White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 992.—By J. N. Babson.



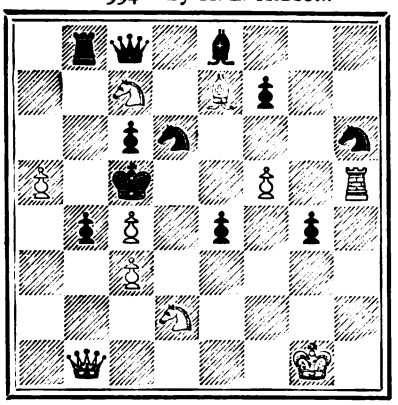
White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 993.—By S. H. Thomas.



White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 994.—By H. E. Kidson.

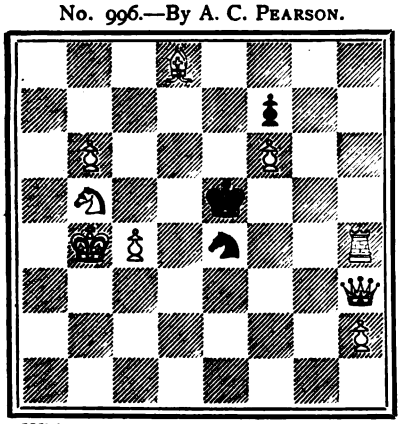


White to play, and mate in two mates.

No. 995.—By J. P. Taylor.

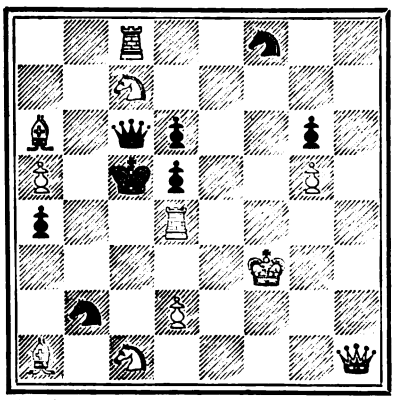
White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 996.—By A. C. Pearson.



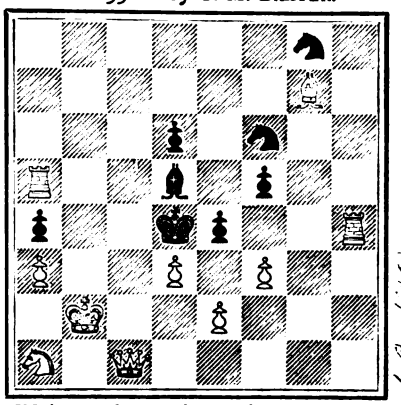
White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 997.—By A. E. Studd.



White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 998.—By C. M. Baxter.



White to play, and mate in two moves.

GAMES.

Noted by W. N. Potter.

GAME 42.

Played in the Displacement Tourney, at Grantham. Place the Bishops (on both sides) on the Knights' squares, and the Knights on the Bishops' squares. In designating the moves no notice is taken of the displacement.

White.	Black.
Mr. Carroll.	Mr. Thorold.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K R 3 (a)
2 P to K R 3	2 B to R 2
3 P to Q B 3	3 P to K 4
4 B to R 2	4 P to Q 3 (b)
5 Kt to K 3	5 P to Q R 3
6 Castles	6 Kt to K 2
7 P to K B 4	7 Kt to B 3
8 P to B 5	8 B to R 2
9 Q to B 3	9 Kt to Q 2
10 K to R sq	10 Kt to B 3 (c)
11 Kt to Kt 4	11 Kt takes Kt
12 Q takes Kt	12 Q to B 3
13 B to Q 3	13 Castles (Q R)
14 P to Q R 4	14 P to K R 4
15 Q to K 2	15 P to R 5
16 P to Q Kt 4	16 Kt to K 2
17 Kt to Kt 3	17 P to Q 4
18 P to Kt 5	18 P takes K P
19 B takes P	19 Kt to Q 4
20 P takes P	20 P takes P
21 Q to B 4	21 Q to Q 3
22 P to Q 4 (d)	22 Kt to K 6
23 Q to K 2	23 Kt takes R
24 R takes Kt	24 P to K B 3
25 Kt to R 5	25 B to K Kt sq (e)
26 B to B 6	26 R to B sq
27 Q takes P ch and wins	

(a) I should prefer P to Q B 3

(b) If Black has no better move than this at his command—and I do not see one anywhere about—he has thus early a weak game. It is likely enough that the first player gets an undue advantage in this form of displacement.

(c) This manner of development must be bad. Not only is time wastefully expended in bringing the Knights on to their familiar squares, but there is also good reason to suppose that they will not, when so posted, have any useful mission.

(d) I wish this sacrifice were necessary for it is boldly and well conceived, but Kt to R 5 is so tremendously strong that no other move has any claim to be considered.

(e) Black's game is lost, of that there is no doubt, but this hatches the climax at once. There was nothing for it but to play the Q to Kt 3, and fight it out on that line.

GAME 43.

Played in the Grantham, first Class Tourney.

(Ruy Lopez.)

White.	Black.
Rev. A. C. Rowley.	Mr. E. Thorold.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to Kt 5	3 Kt to Q 5
4 B to B 4 (a)	4 Kt takes Kt (ch)
5 Q takes Kt	5 Kt to B 3
6 P to K R 3 (b)	6 B to B 4
7 P to Q 3	7 P to K R 3
8 B to K 3	8 Q to K 2
9 P to Q B 3	9 P to Q 3 (c)
10 B takes B	10 P takes B
11 Kt to Q 2	11 B to Q 2
12 Kt to B sq	12 Castles (Q R)
13 Kt to K 3	13 P to K Kt 3
14 Kt to Q 5	14 Kt takes Kt
15 B takes Kt	15 K R to B sq
16 P to K Kt 4 (d)	16 P to Q B 3
17 B to Kt 3	17 P to K B 4
18 Kt P takes P	18 P takes P
19 Castles (Q R)	19 P takes P
20 Q takes P	20 R takes P
21 P to K R 4	21 R to B 5
22 Q to K 3	22 B to B 4
23 B to B 2	23 B to Kt 5
24 Q R to K sq	24 R to K sq
25 Q to Kt 3	25 P to K R 4
26 B to Q sq	26 Q to K 3
27 B to Kt 3	27 Q to B 4
28 R to K 3	28 R to B 8 (ch)
29 R takes R	29 Q takes R (ch)
30 R to K sq	30 Q to B 3
31 B to Q sq	31 B takes B
32 K takes B	32 Q to K 3
33 P to Kt 3	33 K to Q 2
34 Q to Kt 5	34 Q to R 6
35 K to Q 2	35 Q to B 6
36 R takes P	36 R takes R
37 Q takes R	37 Q to B 7 (ch)
38 K to Q sq	38 Q takes K R P
39 Q to K B 5 (ch) (e)	39 K to Q 3
40 K to Q 2	40 Q to R 7 (ch) and Black finally won.

(a) Kt takes Kt, as usually played, is stronger, but the move in text is by no means bad. It is merely a question of more or less advantage.

(b) Kt to Q B 3 has a more plausible aspect.

(c) Allowing his Pawn to be doubled for the sake of rapid developement. Not bad judgment I consider.

(d) White should Castle on the Queen's side at once.

(e) The only chance is to go up to Kt 8.

GAME 44.

Played at the Chief Tourney at Grantham. It was adjudged to be the most brilliant game played during the Grantham Congress, and consequently Mr. I. O. Howard Taylor's special prize of £2 2s. was awarded to the winner, Mr. Skipworth.

(Ruy Lopez.)

White.	Black.
Mr. Rowley.	Mr. Skipworth.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to Kt 5	3 P to Q R 3
4 B to R 4	4 Kt to B 3
5 Castles	5 Kt takes P
6 R to K sq	6 P to Q 4 (a)
7 P to Q 4 (b)	7 P to Q Kt 4
8 B to Kt 3	8 B to K Kt 5 (c)
9 P to K R 3	9 B takes Kt
10 P takes B	10 Kt to Kt 4
11 P takes P	11 Kt takes R P ch
12 K to Kt 2	12 Kt to K 2 (d)
13 K takes Kt	13 P to Q B 3
14 K to Kt 2	14 Kt to B 4
15 P to K 6	15 Kt to R 5 ch
16 K to B sq	16 B to Kt 5
17 P to B 3	17 Castles (e)
18 P takes B	18 P takes P
19 R takes P (f)	19 Q to Q 2
20 Q to K 2	20 Q R to K sq
21 R takes R	21 R takes R
22 B to K 3 (g)	22 Q to R 6 ch
23 K to K sq	23 Kt takes P ch
24 K to Q sq	24 Q to R 8 ch
25 K to B 2	25 Kt to Q 5 ch
26 K to Q 2	26 Kt takes Q
27 K takes Kt	27 K to R sq
28 K to Q 2	28 P to Q 5 (h)
29 B takes P	29 R to Q sq
30 K to B 3	30 Q to K 8 ch
31 Kt to Q 2	31 Q takes R and wins. (i)

(a) Possibly intended as a trap, but the results ought to be exceedingly unsatisfactory.

(b) I should prefer B takes Kt ch followed by P to Q 3 as the outcome of which White would be a Pawn ahead and have a comfortable position.

(c) This, with its continuation, leads to increased loss. B to K 2, followed, if P takes P by B to K 3, appears the best line of play at this point.

(d) Black cannot avoid the loss of a piece, for if Q to R 5, the reply is Q takes P.

(e) I scarcely know what to say about this manœuvre. It does not strike me as being a very promising speculation. At the same time with a piece behind, much

may be ventured. As the bankrupt said when he invested his last hundred pounds in the lottery, "winning I win, and losing I do not lose."

(f) This accommodating move must have gratified Mr. Skipworth exceedingly, whereas if P to B 4 had been played, I see nothing in the position to compensate for the two lost pieces.

(g) Played without calculating consequences. The Queen cannot be saved, and therefore should be sold as dearly as possible. By taking the Rook he would still have had the best of the game, though as Mr. Skipworth rightly observes he would not have been out of danger.

(h) Well played and decisive.

(i) Seventeen more moves are recorded, but the win is so obvious that I am sure Mr. Skipworth will not object to my saving space by omitting them.

✓ GAME 45.

Played at the Divan, between Messrs. A. Ensor and MacDonnell.

(Steinitz Gambit.)

White.	Black.
Mr. A. Ensor.	Mr. MacDonnell.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Q Kt to B 3	2 Q Kt to B 3
3 P to K B 4	3 P takes P
4 P to Q 4	4 Q to R 5 ch
5 K to K 2	5 P to Q 4
6 K Kt to B 3	6 B to K Kt 5
7 Kt takes P	7 Castles
8 B takes P	8 B tks Kt ch (a)
9 P takes B	9 Kt to B 3
10 B to Kt 3	10 Q to R 4 (b)
11 Kt takes Kt	11 P takes Kt
12 P to B 3	12 Q to Kt 4 ch
13 Q to Q 3	13 Q takes P ch
14 Q to Q 2	14 Q to Kt 4 ch
15 K to B 2 (c)	15 Q to K R 4
16 P to K R 4	16 K to Kt sq
17 B to R 3	17 Q to Q R 4
18 K R to Q sq	18 R to Kt sq
19 Q R to Kt sq	19 Q to K R 4
20 P to R 4	20 B to Q 3
21 P to K B 4	21 Kt to K 2
22 Q to K 3	22 R takes B (d)
23 K takes R (e)	23 R to Kt sq ch
24 K to R 2	24 Q takes P
25 P to K 5	25 P takes P
26 B P takes P	26 Kt to Q 4
27 Q to B 3	27 B to K 2
28 R tks P ch (f)	28 K to R sq
29 R takes B P	29 R to Q sq
30 R to Q Kt sq	30 Q to R 3 (g)
31 Q takes Kt ch, and mates next move	

(a) Played, no doubt, for a change. Kt to B 3 is Black's best.

(b) This allows White to get rid of his chief source of embarrassment. Q to R 3 is the correct move. Mr. MacDonnell likes to take a walk down bye-lanes.

(c) White has obviously the better game.

(d) In the spirit of Rupert; but such dashing onslaughts cannot always lead to victory.

(e) Well played. Mr. MacDonnell would much have preferred the Queen taking; after which R to Kt sq would have been rather effective.

(f) The right move at the right time.

(g) If P to Q R 3 then Q R to Kt 7.

✓ GAME 46.

Played on the 15th December in the match between Mr. E. Thorold and Miss M. Rudge.

(Remove White's Q Kt.)

White.	Black.
Mr. Thorold.	Miss Rudge.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P takes P
3 K Kt to B 3	3 B to B 4
4 B to Q B 4	4 P to Q 3
5 P to Q B 3	5 P to Q 6
6 Q to Kt 3	6 Q to B 3
7 B to K Kt 5	7 Q to Kt 3
8 Castles (Q R)	8 P to K R 3
9 B to R 4	9 Kt to Q B 3
10 R takes P	10 R to Q Kt sq
11 R to K sq	11 B to K 3
12 P to K 5	12 P to Q 4
13 B takes P	13 K Kt to K 2 (a)
14 P to B 4	14 B to B 4
15 B takes K Kt	15 B takes B
16 B takes Kt (ch)	16 Q takes B
17 Kt to Q 4	17 Q to K Kt 3
18 Kt takes B (b)	18 Q takes Kt
19 P to Kt 3	19 Q takes B P
20 Q to Q sq	20 B to Kt 4 (ch)
21 K to Kt sq	21 Q to K B 4
22 K to R sq	22 Castles
23 R to K B 3	23 Q to K 3
24 P to K R 4	24 B to K 2
25 R to B 4	25 Q R to Q sq
26 Q to B 2	26 B to B 4
27 Q to B 3	27 Q to Q 2
28 Q to K B 3	28 Q to Q 7
29 R from B 4 to K 4	29 R to Q 6
30 Q to B sq	30 K R to Q sq

and Black won in a few more moves. (c)

(a) Miss Rudge plays with remarkable caution. I believe she would have been justified in taking the Rook, but she evidently prefers to feel quite safe and comfortable.

(b) This exchange would seem to be necessary, the hostile Bishops being, as posted, far too powerful. R to Kt 3 would be useless, on account of B to Kt 4 (ch).

(c) This and another game were played at the same sitting. Both were of the same opening, and the first, a brilliant gamelet, was won by Mr. Thorold in 12 moves, being however the only one scored by him out of six. This I extract from *Land and Water*, in which paper it lately appeared. In the present game Miss Rudge has avoided the errors which led to her defeat in the other, and her opponent has scarcely had any chance all through.

✓ GAME 47.

Played by correspondence between the Dudley Chess Club and Mr. T. Long, of Dublin.

(Ruy Lopez.)

White.	Black.
Dudley.	Mr. T. Long.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to Kt 5	3 P to Q R 3
4 B to R 4	4 P to Q Kt 4 (a)
5 B to Kt 3	5 B to Kt 2
6 Castles	6 B to K 2
7 P to B 3 (b)	7 Kt to B 3
8 B to B 2 (c)	8 P to Q 3 (d)
9 P to Q 4	9 P takes P
10 P takes P	10 Kt to Q Kt 5
11 R to K sq	11 Kt takes B
12 Q takes Kt	12 Castles
13 P to Q Kt 3	13 P to K R 3
14 Q Kt to Q 2	14 Kt to R 2
15 B to Kt 2	15 Kt to Kt 4
16 Kt takes Kt	16 B takes Kt
17 Kt to B 3	17 B to K 2
18 P to Q 5 (e)	18 P to K B 4 (f)
19 Kt to Q 4	19 Q to Q 2
20 Kt takes B P	20 R to B 2
21 R to K 3	21 B to K B 3 (g)
22 B takes B	22 R takes B
23 R to K Kt 3	23 R takes Kt
24 P takes R	24 R to K B sq
25 R to Q B sq	25 P to Q R 4
26 P to B 6 (h)	26 R takes P
27 Q takes P	27 Q takes Q
28 R takes Q	28 R to B 2
29 R takes R	29 K takes R
30 R to Q 3	30 P to Kt 4
31 P to Kt 3	31 K to B 3
32 P to B 4	32 P takes P
33 P takes P	33 K to B 4
34 R to Q 4	34 P to K R 4
35 K to B 2	35 B to B sq
36 K to K 3	36 B to Q 2
37 R to Q B 2	37 K to B 3
38 R to Q 2	38 P to Q R 5
39 P takes P	39 P takes P
40 R to B 7	40 B to Kt 4
41 K to K 4	41 B to B 8
42 R to Q 7 and wins.	

(a) Played, of course, as a diversion. No one knows better than the author of the "Key to the Chess Openings," that this move ought to turn out badly.

(b) I should favour 7 P to Q 4, followed, if P to Q 3 by 8 P to Q R 4

(c) R to K sq is preferable.

(d) I should have been strongly tempted

I have [illegible] are Transposed

to play here P to Q 4, with the view, if P takes, of retaking with the Queen.

(e) Very good indeed. Dudley has now a very strong game.

(f) Misfortune was apparently coming up the avenue, but this saves the unwelcome visitor the trouble of knocking at the door. R to Q B sq seems to afford the best chance of making a fight.

(g) This also is not good, or, putting a broader point on it, is very bad, 21 B to K B sq is the only anchor left. If then R to Kt 3, the K must go to R 2.

(h) The finishing touch. Altogether it is evident that Mr. Long has been overmatched in this struggle.

GAME 48. √

Being a humorous five minutes Chessikin, played recently at the Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham.

(Centre Gambit.)

White.	Black.
Mr. A. J. Stevenson.	Mr. A. Marriott.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P takes P
3 B to B 4	3 Kt to K B 3
4 P to K 5 (a)	4 P to Q 4
5 B to Kt 3	5 Kt to B 5 ×
6 Kt to K 2	6 B to Q B 4
7 P to K B 3 (b)	7 Q to R 5 ch
8 P to Kt 3	8 P to Q 6 (c)
9 P takes Q (d)	9 B to B 7 ch
10 K to B sq	10 B to R 6 mate

(a) Bad; the soundest continuation is Q takes P, but sound players do not go in for the Centre Gambit. Kt to K B 3, Q to K 2, and B to K Kt 5 have each their points.

(b) There ought to be a book upon "the principles," and then such moves as this would be eschewed. It is so innately condemnable as scarcely ever to be worth examining.

(c) Very lively, and not unsound.

(d) The only reply was 9 Q takes P, B to B 7 ch, 10 K to Q sq, Kt takes P, 11 Kt takes Kt, B takes Kt, 12 Q takes P, Castles. Black must win a Pawn, and has, undoubtedly, the better position.

GAME 49. √

Taken, with notes, from *Land and Water*. Remove White's Q Kt from the board.

(Centre Gambit.)

White.	Black.
Mr. Thorold.	Miss Rudge.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P takes P
3 Kt to K B 3	3 B to B 4 (a)
4 B to Q B 4	4 P to Q 3
5 P to B 3	5 P takes P
6 Q to Kt 3	6 Q to B 3
7 B to K Kt 5	7 Q to Kt 3
8 Castles (Q R)	8 P takes P (ch)
9 K takes P	9 Kt to Q B 3
10 P to K 5	10 B to K 3
11 P takes P	11 B takes B (b)
12 Q takes Kt P (c)	12 R to Kt sq (d)

White mates in three moves.

(a) Had she checked, Mr. Thorold would no doubt have covered with the Knight. Givers of these odds are generally willing to exchange a Cavalier for a Bishop.

(b) Rushing into the trap.

(c) A brilliant stroke, which, as we believe, wins against the best play. The aspect of the board is most remarkable.

(d) Notwithstanding the forces which Black has in the field, we can find no move to save the game. P to B 3 appears best. We give a specimen variation arising from that reply :—

	12 P to B 3
13 Q takes R (ch)	13 K to Q 2
14 P takes P (dis ch)	14 K takes P
15 B to B 4 (ch)	15 K to Kt 3
16 R to Q 7	16 Q to K 5

(If K Kt to K 2, then Q to Kt 7 (ch), followed by R takes K)

17 Q to Kt 7 ch	17 K to R 4
18 B to Q 2 ch	18 K to R 5
19 R to K sq	19 B to R 6 (ch)
20 K to R sq, and wins.	

There are, of course, numerous other variations, but we cannot afford space for them; moreover, the reader must be credited with an average amount of capacity.

× An can't get to B5 from B3

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS.

No. 938.

Admits of a Solution in two moves, by B to Q sq, &c.

No. 939.

1 Kt to K B 5	1 Aught
2 Mates	

No. 940.

1 R to Q B 8 ch	1 B covers
2 K to R sq	2 B to Kt 8
3 B to B 6 ch	3 B covers
4 B to R 7	4 B to Q 5
5 B to K 5	5 B takes B Mate

No. 941.

1 K to B 3
2 B to Kt 7
3 B to B 8
4 B to K 7
5 B to Q 8 — Black's moves are forced
6 B to K 5
7 B to Kt 4
8 B to R 3
9 B to Kt 2
10 K to Q 3 — ch and mate

No. 942.

1 Q to Q 2	1 Kt to Kt 4
2 B to K 2 ch	2 K to K 5
3 R Mates	

If Black play 1 Kt to K 4, then 2 Q to Q 4, &c.

No. 943.

The B P at B sq should be a Black Bishop.

1 R to R 6	1 B to Q 3
2 Kt to R 6	2 Aught
3 Kt Mates	

No. 944.

1 Kt takes Kt	1 K to K 3
2 Q to Q B 8 ch	2 K to Q 4
3 Q mates.	

No. 945.

1 B to K 3	1 B checks
2 K takes B	2 Aught
3 Q or B mates.	

No. 946

1 Q to Q 2	1 Aught
2 Mates.	

No. 947

1 B to R 2	1 P moves
2 R to Q B 3	2 K moves
3 R mates.	

No. 948.

1 R takes B	1 K takes R
2 P to B 5 ch	2 K takes P
3 B mates.	

No. 949.

1 Kt takes Kt ch	1 K to Q 5
2 Q to Q 8 ch	2 K to K 4
3 Kt to Kt 4 ch	3 K to B 4
4 Q mates.	

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. 138.

By Mr. F. H. LEWIS.

A's Hand.

X's Hand.

B's Hand.

Z's Hand.

A to lead. Diamonds trump. Can A and B make 3 by Cards?

For the best Analysis and Solution of this Problem we will give J. C., Cavendish, Professor Pole, or any vol. of these Papers.

No correct Solution of this Problem having been sent in, we repeat it.

A WHIST HERESY.

We promised in our last to reply to Cavendish. He says no player of repute with a long weak suit, and a weak hand, opens the game by leading his highest card whatever the score. He proceeds to cite the authority of Mr. Clay, Professor Pole, Hoyle, and Matthews—"all the eminent English authorities—and they are unanimous," and he crushes all opposition as follows:—"The strongest argument in favour of the long suit system is that it has characterised the scientific game ever since it was invented, that it has stood the test of a century and a half, and that it is adopted by all the best authorities on the game." Now we have the highest respect for the authorities quoted, and, speaking generally, we are not aware that either in theory or practice have they ever had a more devoted follower than ourselves; but we in common with many others who have rigidly followed rules have lost our money, and seeing that several men win who do not follow system, and having the authority of Mr. Clay that the dashing players win, we are led to doubt whether any cast iron rule can be laid down for the guidance of players adapted to all cases. When one says that he has found a system or rule to which there is no exception, we reply that it is contrary to experience that any such rule can exist. Hoyle wrote for long Whist, and a game that may be perfectly sound at long Whist may obviously be bad at short Whist. In Hoyle's time the Peter was not invented, and, given this new weapon, are we to recognise it at one period of the game, and at another ignore its effects? If the system, good at long Whist, is not good at short, as we believe, then it follows that the system of play sound at love all is not applicable when the score is three or four all, or three or four to love. It falls to our lot occasionally to attend our Courts of Law, and we see learned counsel cite book after book and case after case to support their views, but when the cases are examined they fail to touch the point at issue, and we should set aside all the authorities quoted against us at one swoop by saying that they never touch the point. They all write on the assumption that we are at love all, whether at long or short Whist. We have pointed this out over and over again, and Cavendish fails to see the point. It is true that he apparently does see it, for he makes use of the words "whatever the score." If by this he means to assert that all players play the same whatever the score; that they try for five tricks when they want one; this may be a game that we do not understand, but it is not Whist. To assume that the best of the modern school, or the best of any school, did not recognize this dis-

tinction is an insult to their understanding. Take an instance of a player leading from his long suit, score 4 all. A has :—

(Clubs Trumps.)

Cavendish would lead the small Heart, or perhaps the lowest but one for the sake of consistency. By the bye our forefathers did not recognize this lead—why therefore does Cavendish? If we are to have the grandfather argument brought in to guide us, why should not we ignore what they ignored, as well as believe what they believed. What are the advantages attending the lead of the Heart? It cannot be supposed that A will get a trick in Hearts. It is just as likely to help your adversaries, and it does not give you the remotest chance of forcing your adversary, and it does not prevent them from making any trick that they have in the suit. It is quite possible that Professor Pole or Cavendish might lead the Heart, and so also would many bookworms who follow the book system; but, if Mr. Clay or Matthews or Hoyle, would have led a suit because it was long, and with no possible gain to be obtained, then they carried rule to an excess that we should not follow, and because we rebel against such hard and fast rules as unreasonable and impractical, we are branded as heretical. When a player has no card of re-entry, it is very little use leading a long weak suit. The reason for the lead is gone. You are playing for an impossibility. You know it when you start, and wise men seldom sit down and cry for the moon. One would fancy in reading these pretty theories that in practice the Professors never saw a weak hand! and is it that they never get an odd trick that they do not tell us what is to happen after we have left the score of love all? Have they never played a hand where the leader or his partner did not get the first trick? Yet neither Professor gives us the least idea what is to be done if the leader happen to lead the fourth or second player's long or strong suits. If the second wins is he to return the suit? If fourth wins and he has the tenace is he to return it? and if not what are they to lead? Perhaps these gentlemen are always favoured with two strong suits, and shall we suppose a lot of trumps besides. We envy them and wish our lot had fallen in such pleasant places. This, as we have before pointed out, is a peculiarity of the books. They treat the original lead on exactly the same footing whether they are first player, second, third or fourth. There is no writer to whom Cavendish is so much indebted as Matthews. We should recommend him to read again what the great master says on the subject of Tenace, and before being quite so positive that under no circumstances and at no score and in no position can any one ever lead from any suit but the longest, let him look on for a month at the play of the first Whist men of his acquaintance and let him give us the hands that he sees where the rule is departed from. Cavendish can only have the interest of Whist at heart; he writes for science. We only desire to find out the system that pays best. We should prefer a system that wins rather than follow a theory and lose. The gods have spoken; Whist is perfect. This is the Catholic creed, use your reasoning faculties and demonstrate that it is ridiculous and absurd to play from the long suit, yet if you do not do so you are schismatic and heretical. Whist attained perfection when Cavendish published his first edition. It is true this has been improved 15 or 16 times; still Whist is, and was and ever will be perfect, as laid down by Cavendish, and none shall alter or improve the play. Ye who are of the true church, do as you are told. You will lose your self respect, you will lose your money, but you will have the Prophet's blessing, and perhaps your reward in another and better world.

One of the reasons given by Cavendish for always leading from the long suit is "in hopes of bringing it in." The answer to this is given in the hand above set out. We have no hope of bringing it in, and with us when the reason for playing the card is gone, we do not lead it. If we lead a card we do so for a reason, and having no reason for leading the card we look for another. It is a Whist Axiom that we should lead no card without a reason; but then Cavendish has another reason, he leads from a long suit "to take the best chance of not clearing a suit in which the opponents are strong." In the case given, no matter how strong, or how weak the adversaries are, if it be their suit, we cannot prevent them bringing it in. All the reasons are gone, yet we are to play exactly in the same way as if the reasons were with us. If this is not reducing Whist to a mechanical game we do not know what else can be done to take it from those high realms of which we have heard so much. Whist, the game that requires such great brains, such high qualifications, is reduced by its great master to the lowest level of any game extant.

At the score of 4 all does Cavendish or any one else play in the same way as he would play at love all at long Whist. He says that no player of repute with a long weak suit and a weak hand opens the game by leading his highest card whatever the score, so these words include the score of 4 all. Now at the commencement of a game with a bad hand the object is to save as many tricks as we can, but at the score of 4 all the object is to get seven tricks, and not 3, 4, 5, or 6. If we cannot get seven tricks the game is lost. We cannot play to save the game—we must play to win, because winning and saving the game are now convertible terms. In our judgment no good player at the score of 4 all would lead the long weak suit. He must be careful of his tenaces, and if it be admitted that we should play at 4 all in a different manner to the way in which we play at love all, it follows that there are various modifications to be made in our play according to the stages of the game, and this we thought

an axiom at Whist as it is at Piquet and Ecarté; but no, the great man says this is all moonshine, it is not in my book, and hence it is that the young players having tried the books, and found that they lose their money, throw off all rules, and abandon a system sound in itself, but not, as our author says, adapted to all cases and all stages of the game. It is Cavendish, and not we, who bring the system into ridicule and contempt. He reduces all players to a common level; the genius and the fool are on an equality. The long suit system, like all other systems, must be understood; the reasons for it must be understood, but our author having laid down his hard and fast line tells his followers they are not to use their reason at all because he does not.

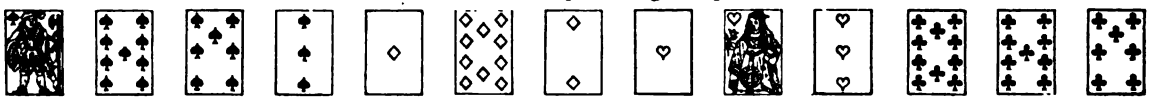
During the past month we have taken down the following hands which we have seen played by good players:—

I.—Score love. Spade trump.

The Hand.

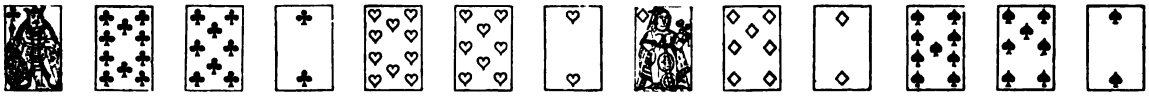
The player led the H Kv.

II.—Score love. Spade King trump card.



The player led the C 10.

III.—Score love. Club trump.



The leader led H 10.

IV.—Score love. Kv. Spades trump card.

The player led C Q.

V.—Score love. Kv. Hearts trump card.

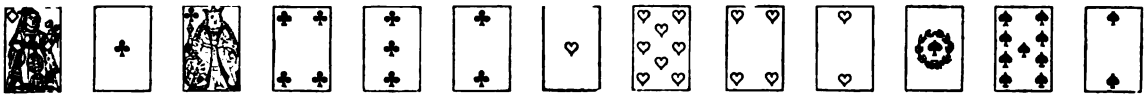
The Player led C Kv.

It will be observed that these examples are all at love all. We do not say they are all right, but we do say that they are the actual hands and actual leads of players of repute. At advanced scores we did not take down any first player's hands', because we thought it obvious to the meanest capacity that this kind of lead was much more often played than that at any other time. We will go a step further now and give instances of hands we have seen played during the same period, when the second or fourth player won the first trick.

VI.—Spades trump. Love all. The second player's hand.

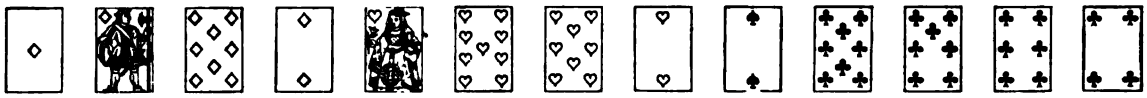
The first card led was a H; won by second player with Q. He now led D Kg.

VII.—Hearts trump. The fourth player's hand.



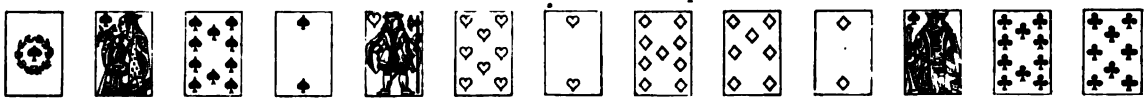
The first lead was a Club; won by the fourth player, with Kg, who led D Q.

VIII.—Diamonds trump. Score four all. The fourth player's hand.



The first lead was Heart ; second player puts on 10; third, Kv; fourth won with Q who led S 2.

IX.—Hearts trumps.



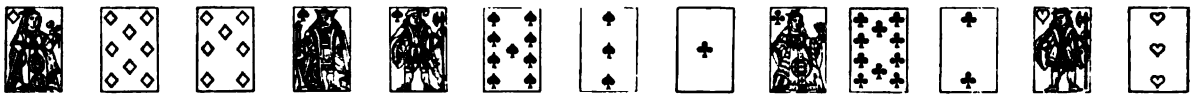
Spade led. Won by this hand, second player, with Qn. His partner dropped the 9. Player led D 9.

WHIST.

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—You ask me for a hand in which I would lead from weakness? I can give you any number in which it would be better to do so, if you have a partner who can distinguish between a lead from weakness and one from strength, but I dare not depart from conventional play without a previous understanding with my partner, or I should lose no end of rubbers by his returning my leads. For instance:—

(Diamonds Trumps.)



I have no doubt it is a more winning game to lead Knave of Hearts than any other card.

I have studied the whole question as thoroughly as it is possible to do without practising it, and I have no doubt that the most successful game would be based upon the following principles:—In the first place I would expect my partner to draw these inferences. That if I lead a small card I must have four trumps, and that if I lead a strengthening card from weakness, I have at most three trumps. He is to play to protect the suit from which I have led, knowing that I have no strength in it, and he is to lead strengthening cards to me in the other suits, unless after the knowledge he has obtained of my weakness in trump he still thinks our joint strength can bring in a long suit. As a mere matter of information to partner an immense advantage is gained by such an early and accurate knowledge of the number of trumps held by partner, but the great gain is that you are led up to in your suits.

This is most apparent when you consider that if you have Ace, Queen, ten over King and Knave and others you make all by waiting, and one trick only by leading the suit.

The system I am proposing depends on this obvious truth that you cannot bring in a long suit with weak trumps, and in such case you must depend in the other way of making the most of your hand by tenace and finesse.

This is the distinctive characteristic of Mathews' teaching, only I would carry it out more consistently.

This is what "J. C." recommends when the game is desperate and he speaks of many games saved by leading from weakness and deep finessing. A plan so useful occasionally must surely be good at other times when not carried to extremes.

Yours, &c., FRANCIS BURDEN.

IS IT A REVOKE?

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—Under this heading Mr. F. H. Lewis raises a question to which, in my opinion, no other answer can possibly be given than—No.!

Mr. F. H. Lewis admits that D could not have withdrawn the card he first played, except *with the consent of his adversaries* (the italics are his), and yet he says that the adversaries may exact a penalty for an act to which

they have given their consent. Utterly disregarding the subtleties by which he endeavours to make it out a Revoke, I ask, Is it not against all sense of justice to suppose that players may actually consent to their adversaries violating the rules of the game, and yet exact a penalty for the violation?

When I read such a subtle argument to support a constructive revoke, in order to exact its fearful penalty, and also the arguments that have appeared justifying a player in scoring a trick which he knew to belong to the adversary, I cannot but ask myself—Are Whist players to forget that they are gentlemen? If so, let the game be relegated to sharpers, for no gentleman will consent to the supposed condition.

In expressing these views I am but the mouthpiece of many friends, who are disgusted at the supposition that any one may, consistently with honour, take advantage of a technical construction of the rules to do acts violating all ideas of honourable conduct.

Yours obediently, MOGUL.

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—When Mr. Lewis and Cavendish have given an opinion on Whist, in the ordinary course of things it would be highly presumptuous in me to interfere, but as in the present case the combined oracle gives a very uncertain sound, so uncertain as to directly contradict itself, this (as leaving the question still in doubt) must be my apology for offering a *tertium quid.*

It appears that four gentlemen were sitting at a table at a West End Club with cards in their hands; being gentlemen, three of them neither conspired to rob the fourth, nor could they all have been disguised in liquor; of course Messrs. Lewis and Cavendish have satisfied themselves it is not a hoax, otherwise the entire proceeding is altogether pantomimic in its absurdity, clown and pantaloon might have been the performers; when the curtain rises, two of these gentlemen—called by courtesy, partners—are seen actively cutting each other's throats, while the other two, with a smile that is child-like and bland, sit looking on and give them moral support; if this is a game, and it may be—I hear new clubs are being formed at the West end, where very queer games indeed are being played, even with the accompaniment of a couple of packs of cards and a table with a green cloth on it—it is not Whist, and any attempt to take such a performance *au grand serieux* and get it within the four corners of the laws of that game must inevitably fail; laws are made for people of sound mind, and it is no use attempting to apply them, to people who are not; answering them is utterly wrong treatment, it aggravates the cerebral mischief. I could——but yours is not a medical paper. In this Christian land, proper provision is made for homicidal maniacs, and that eminent authorities on Whist should be troubled to give them advice gratis, to the injury of respectable medical men, is revolting to the moral sense of PEMBRIDGE.

BRAINS *VERSUS* BOOKS AND BRAINS.

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—The assertion that *cæteris paribus*, one who reads on a subject in which he is interested, whether for industrious or recreative purposes, possesses an immense advantage over another who does not, is so very manifest to the vast majority of minds, that it requires no demonstration, and, in fact amounts to a truism. Yet, my experience, coinciding with yours, for you, sir, have more than once commented on this subject, is, there are to be found amongst Whist players very many who not only ignore but are even opposed to this universal truth, and in this category are to be placed shrewed and sensible men. I firmly believe in the maxim "Example is better than precept," for mankind, as a rule, will learn much more readily from individual cases which are most directly brought home to their senses, and produce a greater and more lasting impression. A Mr. D, on my pointing out to him on one occasion, so far back as three or four years ago, that he played contrary to Cavendish, replied, "Oh, you depend upon books and play too much upon line and rule, instead of relying upon your own brain." Of course thereby (as well as from the tone in which it was uttered) implying that the latter was a necessary consequence of the former. Cavendish's work was then, as it still is, lying upon the table in the club-room, but as it has been since frequently appealed to by other players, he is now content to abide by it in all disputed questions, but, nevertheless, he will not read that or any other Whist treatise. He is really an excellent player. He is gifted with a good memory, is an acute observer of the fall of cards, almost always draws correct inferences, seldom makes mistakes, and in a word, is a player of that description whom our finest players would be well satisfied to have as a partner. He is very superior in his play to many who have or profess to have read Whist treatises and

articles, but that I repeat, *cæteris paribus*, he is at a disadvantage with those who have acquired book knowledge. In the course of this month he cut with me as a partner. I turned up a small Heart. The score was love all. My hand consisted of three small trumps, the Ace, 9 and two low Spades, Kg., Kv., and another Club, and three small Diamonds. D had in his hand six trumps including the Ace, King, and 10, four Clubs, headed by the Queen and 9, and the Ace and Queen of Diamonds with a low one. The adversaries held each respectively two trumps. The distribution of the other cards being immaterial, is not worth noticing. The game as actually played was this:—Elder hand started with King of Spades, D ruffed it, then led a small Club; won by my Kg. Kn. of that suit returned by me, which was won by the fourth hand with the Ace, who then led out a small diamond, my partner winning the King played by the third hand. D then led out his Ace, King, and 10 of trumps, made his Queen and 10 of Clubs, and the result was we made four by cards, missing the game in consequence of my holding up the Ace of Spades the only time I had the lead. Now for the criticism of the play. As soon as D ruffed the King of Spades, I was bound to draw some inference, for says Cavendish, "draw your inference at the time of the play," a truly precious piece of advice, and were it generally observed, how many blunders would be avoided. My inference was, he ruffed either through poverty or excessive strength in trumps, for in either case he could not allow so valuable a card as the King to pass. Were he moderately strong in them, he might and generally should risk his partner having the Ace. The next lead being a small Club I now infer he is weak in trumps, with at least two by honours against us, and I accordingly keep guard upon the adversaries' suit. With his strong hand he was bound to give me the ut most information, and upon this all our modern Whist treatises are most emphatic. As the late Mr. Clay beautifully expressed it, "Whist is a language, and every card played in it is a complete sentence." Had D led a small trump it would have been equivalent to his telling me, "Now partner, fear not, as I am very strong in trumps, so out with your Ace of Spades if you have it." But, moreover, he was bound to lead the King to give me *additional* information, for then he would have further said, "Partner, I have besides great numerical strength in trumps, at least two high honours in them, and do not only play out your Ace of Spades if you have it, but likewise do not finesse in my suit." Had he played as I have indicated, I should have led out my Ace of Spades before returning his suit, and the game would have been thus won. The reason why the signal for trumps has become a nuisance, and loses so many tricks, is traceable to the same cause: as players in general either will not read, or what nearly amounts to the same, will not read properly. If it were strictly played within the limits assigned by the late Mr. Clav, all else would be well, and the game would be much facilitated.

E. J.

"REPREHENSIBLE CONDUCT OF DUMMY."

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—Under the above heading some remarks appear in your last number, under the signature of "Pembridge," on which you make some comments, to which, as usual, no exception can be taken, but the letter of your correspondent demands an answer. In the first place Dummy's hand and my own were so strong that I held certain game, whether Dummy ruffed or not, which one of my opponents very frankly admits, and therefore "Pembridge's" statement, that I won the game in consequence of the revoke, is, I suppose I must say a "mistake."

However, Dummy having to lead—Hearts being trumps—and he having apparently no Clubs, led a Spade, which I took, forced Dummy with a Club, he returned another Spade, which I took, and again forced Dummy with a Club. I held Ace of Diamonds, and Dummy King, and in order to see which would be the best way to play the suit, I fully separated Dummy's Diamonds, when out sparkled a black one in the shape of the Ace of Clubs. If the Ace of Clubs had been visible when the cards were first sorted Dummy would have played it, and then the Spade, which I take, force my partner, who returns the Spade, and I force him again, so that the result would have been precisely the same, and my opponents were totally powerless to prevent my making the tricks in question.

"Pembridge" describes the struggles of himself and partner to stop me as violent, but if I had first played the Ace and then made my two trumps it would have been simply reversing the play, and the struggles of my opponents, had they been even more violent than they were, they would have been equally ineffectual.

In my case I can prove to demonstration that Dummy did not derive the slightest advantage from the revoke, but it might have been otherwise, in which case "Pembridge's" remarks might not have been pleasant.

I am sure that it is not your wish, and if you were aware of it you would not allow, a disappointed loser to make the WESTMINSTER PAPERS his medium for publishing insinuations, for which there is no foundation, and which are consequently unjustifiable.

DUMMY'S PARTNER.

CAVENDISH ON ÉCARTÉ.*

The little volume which bears this title conspicuously printed in gold upon the cover, is one of the series of handbooks of games published by De la Rue, for the writer who goes by the pseudonym of Cavendish. But nearly half consists of a code of laws which we have subjected to a special examination. Here our business is only with the 33 pages which is grandly called a treatise on the game.

We have had occasion to speak in high praise of the work of Cavendish on other games, and it gives us no little pain to have to condemn utterly the present book. We are not influenced in the matter by the fact that everything not to be found in Bohn's handbook of games is taken from THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS, for we are ready to admit that anyone writing a treatise on any subject must avail himself of all useful matter wherever it is to be found. It is true that most writers in making so extensive a use of previous labours would have acknowledged the source whence they were taken, and a natural opportunity occurred for doing so, at page 40, where we are told that all the hands that should be played without proposing have been calculated. But we are aware of the unfortunate influences which prevent Cavendish from acting as we are sure he would have liked to do, and we pardon him for considering his interest before the claims of courtesy.

We now proceed to show that this is a very inartistic compilation from Bohn and from us, with the exception of a little more than eight pages of a history of the game, in which no mention is made of the game of Quarante-cinq, which many persons believe to have been the precursor of Ecarté.

The treatise consists of twenty-eight hints for play, occupying eight pages. The list of Jeux de Règle or stand hands, and four examples of skilful play. The Jeux de Regle are taken from THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS, and every one of the examples of skilful play is taken from Bohn's Handbook of Games, pages 262 to 265, so it only remains for us to examine the *Hints*. The first six consist of such advice as to shuffle thoroughly, not to betray the nature of your hand by countenance or manner, and not to affect to consider in order to deceive your opponent.

Hint 7—is taken from Bohn's Handbook, page 263
Hint 8—is taken from "Westminster Papers," July '75
Hint 9—is taken from "Westminster Papers," Ap. '76 and the note (*a*) from Bohn's Handbook, p. 259
Hint 10—is taken from "Westminster Papers," Ap. '76
Hint 11—is from "Westminster Papers," List of Hands
Hint 12—is repeated from another place
Hint 13—is taken from "Wesminster Papers," July '75
Hint 14—is taken from Bohn's Handbook, page 260
Hint 15—is taken from Bohn's Handbook, page 264
Hint 16—is taken from Bohn's Handbook, page 260

Hint 17 is altered from the instructions given in Bohn's Handbook. This is what Cavendish says:—"When playing with two trumps and an unguarded King, it is usually recommended to begin with a low card rather than with the King. If the low cards are of the same suit, it is the game to begin with them, but if of different suits, the King is the best card to play."

Now with 7 and 8 of trumps, a King, and two small cards in sequence in another suit, there is not a single hand which the dealer could hold which would make it more advantageous to begin with one card than another, provided you do not lead trump. But if the low plain cards are not in sequence, there is no case in which it is advantageous to begin with them, but to do so insures the loss of the point in certain cases (when dealer holds a tenace in the suit) which might otherwise be won. It is, therefore, better in all cases to begin with the King.

Hint 17—should be with two trumps, one of which is above the 8.

Hint 18—taken from "Westminster Papers," July, 1875
Hint 19—new, but obvious
Hint 20—taken from "Westminster Papers," July, 1875
Hint 21—taken from Bohn's Handbook, page 260
Hint 22—taken from Bohn's Handbook, page 259
Hint 23—taken from Bohn's Handbook, page 260

Hint 24. This is an attempt to particularize the general advice to play on weaker hands when the opponent is at four, and therefore no penalty to be suffered; but the instructions are so vague as to be no better guide to the player than the general rule.

Hint 25—new, but obvious
Hint 26—taken from Bohn's Handbook, page 260

* De La Rue and Co., Bunhill Row.

Hint 27. Cavendish says that when the dealer is four to three he should refuse on a light hand, notwithstanding that the loss of the point will then lose him the game. He concludes dogmatically—" This rule, though important, is often disregarded, even by players of some experience."

A light hand here should mean such a hand as gives an even, or nearly an even, chance of gaining the trick.

Hint 28 is the obvious advice not to play a forward game at the score of four.

Two additional paragraphs of hints are given on page 53, which are taken from the WESTMINSTER PAPERS of April, 1876, where they were published for the first time.

We have now examined this treatise on Ecarté from beginning to end. The duty has not been a pleasant one, but we have never shrunk from giving an honest opinion on any work which concerns our readers, and we cannot alter our habit even for the sake of Cavendish. As long as he confines his writing to those games at which he is a proficient his work is valuable, for he can put his information in systematic form. But that he is quite incompetent to treat of Ecarté is evident from the fact that in the only two instances where he has ventured on a very slight modification of the information given in Bohn's Handbook and these Paper he has fallen into errors—one of which at least is capable of refutation by simple calculation.

THE ECARTÉ LAWS.

We omitted to state in our last that the Code is published by De La Rue. This was a slip for which we owe Messrs. De la Rue an apology. Our further observations on the Code will appear next month, and we shall be glad to receive the opinions of Ecarté players, whether, in their judgment, it is advisable to adopt the Code.

CARD PLAYING IN THE ARMY.

EXTRACT FROM THE *Times*.

A report recently issued, made by the Director-General of Military Education, gives a statement by Colonel A. C. Gleig, Inspector of Army Schools, on the subject of soldiers' reading-rooms and recreation-rooms. He observes that wherever suitable and sufficient accommodation is provided they flourish, and prove themselves influential aids to discipline. He states that the introduction of cards as one of the recognised means of recreation is very popular, and under proper control, he thinks it is a very good thing to permit card-playing. But he does not like to see rooms filled with men at all hours of the day engaged at cards. No amusement, he says, is at once so absorbing as card-playing and so little beneficial if inordinately indulged in. The Inspector is assured that a a large number of men in every regiment pass every spare hour and minute they have at cards, and that buglers and other very young lads acquire an inordinate passion for card-playing. He would be glad to see card-playing prohibited until after a certain hour in the day—say 3 p.m.—and allowed then only under very stringent rules so far as boys are concerned. For instance, they might be forbidden to play for more than an hour at a time, or more than two hours altogether, with an interval of an hour or two, and only with cards specially issued to them by the non-commissioned officer in charge of the recreation-room. The Inspector knows a case in which the sergeants of a battalion were induced, with laudable self-denial, to pass a mess-rule prohibiting card-playing before tea, in order to prevent the deteriorating effects of too much indulgence in the amusement, which many of those who voted tor the prohibition were alive to, although unable to resist the temptation to it without the moral support of a mess rule on the subject. Since the introduction of cards the games of chess and draughts, formerly much played, especially by the boys, who were great adepts at them, have almost fallen into disuse.

[It is a law, almost equal to that of the Medes and Persians which altereth not, that if you introduce cards, chess is driven out of the field. This is partly because the games are more lively, but chiefly because the gambling element is introduced. It is new to us that any boys in the army are great adepts at chess, and we should be glad to receive evidence on this point in the shape of a good game played by two boys. A similar law prevails if, in a whist room, you introduce Loo, Poker, or even the inferior game, Napoleon. The more scientific game will assuredly go to the wall unless the more gambling games are controlled. We all know that there is luck at whist, and any amount of money can be staked on a rubber, yet the players will go to that game where luck predominates; they will abandon the whist table as soon as a Bacaret table is formed.—ED. *W.P.*]

THE "FIELD" AND OURSELVES.

The following appears in the *Field* of the 5th January: "So trite and hackneyed indeed have become these three Essays (Nimrod's), that even during the present week, the author of 'Bit of old Turf,' in a contemporary, avails himself of the same source to which many of his predecessors have had recourse, but disguises 'Nimrod's' well-known name, under the paraphrase 'a writer who was contemporary with Col. Mellish,' or some similar phrase." This writer disapproves of a contemporary giving the remarks of Nimrod without giving Nimrod the credit for his production. This is the objection that we made last month. No journal published in the English language, except the *Field*, would ever give an inexact quotation from our PAPERS as from the *New York World*. The leader writer of the *Field* and ourselves are in accord on the subject. How is it that the Editor censures a contemporary for being so shabby, and at the same time is capable of committing such meanness towards ourselves?

DRAMATIC NOTES.

A PERSONAL inspection of a few of the pantomimes has convinced us that they are as dull and pointless as ever, and as little worthy of criticism as their near relations the Christmas numbers of certain magazines. The latter are made up of materials which would be unsaleable at any other time of the year, and the former consist of music hall specialities which no manager would dare to place on his stage save at Christmas, when he can count on carriages in triple line along the Strand. At Covent Garden the pantomime is duller, though the scenery is better, than at Drury Lane, where the elasticity of the Vokes family appears to be confined to their limbs. Equally dull is the Gaiety pantomime, which is advertised to be of the good old fashioned sort; for, although the D'Auban family dance marvellously, and can sing and speak a little, they do not possess the necessary quality of humour. Nor can they keep on dancing from the beginning to the end of the pantomime, the bulk of which is as redolent of the music halls as those not advertised as old fashioned. The one thing that distinguishes the pantomimes of 1877-8 from their predecessors is the unanimous disapproval of Russia, which any allusion in them to that power elicits from audiences in any part of London. It is idle for philosophers or agitators to sneer at or deride the opinion of "the theatre," for we suppose that nowhere are all classes of society so much represented in a small compass as at Drury Lane at Christmas. The anti-Russian feeling must be genuine if it is displayed night after night in a dozen theatres by stalls, pit, and gallery, but when that is granted, as it must be by all unprejudiced persons, the very fact is condemnatory of pantomime and its patrons from the artistic point of view. We hold that political manifestations in a right or wrong direction are not only out of place in a theatre, but are a sign that the entertainment is not good enough in itself to fix the minds of the audience. A good play should be attractive by its plot, dialogue, situations, and by the good acting bestowed upon it, but allusions to politics not only disturb the harmony of the proceedings, but distract the attention of the spectator from the plot, the dialogue and the acting. Let the stage and the church eschew contemporary politics, and confining themselves to their proper duties of elevating our tastes and our morals, leave questions of State to Parliament, the Press, and the music-halls. It is from these last that pantomime has adopted, with so many other things, its politics, thus clearly demonstrating its own worthlessness; for can anything good come from music halls? They are detestable places, and we agree with the Bishop of London that any curate who can recommend his parishioners to visit them should be at once inhibited.

Volens and *nolens*, M. Sardou is the dramatic attraction of the month, and whether we have him consenting at the Prince of Wales, or against his will at the Queen's, we are equally delighted with him. M. Sardou is not only a play writer of vast ability, but his plays have also the merit of developing the capacities of those who act in them to a remarkable degree. More than one reputation, not afterwards justified, has been made in *Nos Intimes*. No playgoer who saw it can forget Mrs. Vezin's acting in one scene of *Fernande*, and though the acting at the Queen's in *Fatherland* (*Patrie*) is, if respectable, not brilliant, that at the Prince of Wales' in *Diplomacy* (*Dora*) is characterised by an energy and force too long absent from the boards of Mrs. Bancroft's theatre. The cold and rather finnikin style of acting that has lately prevailed at the Prince of Wales's would indeed be unsuited to *Diplomacy*, which is not a comedy, but a drama of serious interest. Comedy so-called has a wide range,

embracing such different plays as the *School for Scandal* and *A Fool and his Money;* but no place in the scale can be assigned to *Diplomacy*, the situations in which are all of a serious order, and cannot be said to belong to comedy. It is, therefore, satisfactory to find that the performers in *Diplomacy* appreciate the value of force and emphasis, and are thus able to impart a little unaccustomed liveliness to their audience. The acting is excellent down to the representatives of the servants, and the finest acting of all is, perhaps, that of Mrs. Bancroft. Mr. Kendal is much improved, and Messrs. Clayton, Cecil, and Sugden are equal to their reputations. Not quite so good, though still good, are Mrs. Kendal and Mr. Bancroft. The former is too large, both in appearance and style, for Dora, and the latter seems unable to rid himself completely of a certain woodenness which has frequently marred his previous efforts. The adapters have done their work skilfully on the whole, but have erred in so altering the political element of the play as to make it Anglo-Russian. Politics, as we have already endeavoured to show, should be avoided on the stage, and, above all, contemporary politics; but what is to be said of men who in a serious play actually assume a state of affairs which does not—at all events, as we write—exist. In burlesque or comedy of a certain kind anything may be assumed, but in a play like *Dora* it is surely going too far to suppose the hero to be an English *attaché* journeying to Vienna with a plan of the defences of Constantinople in his pocket, in view of an English occupation of that city. This is an error of taste, for in any theatre less lymphatic than the Prince of Wales's, unpleasant feelings might be aroused in the audience, and an error in art, as it militates against a sole and undivided attention to the domestic difficulties of the hero and heroine. Another blunder, from an artistic point of view, is that certain of the characters speak in broken English, when all are supposed to be speaking the same language, French or English. Thus when the Russian Baron Stein, and the Russian or Hungarian Countess Zicka are alone on the stage, Mr. Cecil speaks broken, Mrs. Bancroft plain English. Again, when Dora and her mother are holding a dialogue, Mrs. Kendal speaks plain, Miss Le Thiere broken English, both being supposed to be foreign ladies. This may be stage license, but we do not look for it at the Prince of Wales', and as well might we expect to hear the text of Othello delivered with an Italian accent.

Ill luck continues to attach itself to the Queen's Theatre, for whilst *Diplomacy* may run for a year or more at the Prince of Wales', the career of *Fatherland* at the Queen's is already on the point of being cut short. And yet M. Sardou would probably consider his *Patrie*, which is not unworthily represented at the Queen's, to be as good as his *Dora*. If in *Dora*, the drama of modern life, the political element is intended as a flavour to the domestic interest which is the body of the story; in *Patrie*, the historical drama of mediæval life, the political interest overshadows the domestic. This is in accordance with dramatic usage and common sense, for no ebullition of feeling is likely to be aroused by a presentation of the misdeeds of the Spaniards in the Low Countries centuries ago. At the same time the prominence of history necessitates on the stage something elaborate in the way of scenery and spectacular effects, the mechanism and management of which are apt to interfere with the spectators' attention to the story, even when the plot is so grand and ingenious as that of *Patrie*, or, as it is called in the English version, *Fatherland*. Whether M. Sardou has any grounds of complaint against the manager of the Queen's, who has adopted his play without consulting him, is doubtful, but both he, and we, and all true playgoers, have just cause to protest against the uncalled for change in the character of the heroine. The adapters of *Dora*, though guilty of an error of taste in their alteration of the framework, made no attempt to mutilate the picture, but the adapter of *Patrie* has both destroyed the author's idea and weakened the interest of the story by leaving out the poetical justice dealt by M. Sardou towards his wicked and traitorous heroine. Rysoor and Karloo are Flemish patriots plotting against the Spaniards. Dolores, the wife of Rysoor, commits adultery with Karloo, and betrays the Flemish plans to the Spanish Duke Alva, with the amiable intention of killing off Rysoor, and begging off Karloo, in order that she may afterwards marry him. But Karloo, who is a true patriot, if a false friend, will not be begged off, and further, kills Dolores for her treachery. This is consistent and sensible, but the English adapter, after fining down the wickedness of Dolores all through the play, despatches Rysoor and Karloo to execution, and leaves the lady alive to repent, or go to a convent. As well might Lady Macbeth recover from her mortal sickness, and be relegated for life to a refuge for sonnambulists! The aggravating part of all this is that the adapter puts forward as his reason for altering the character of Dolores, that English audiences would object to her violent death, and to a too open delineation of her crime. We entirely deny that that mysterious entity, the public, or rather the public sense of propriety, is against the serious treatment on the stage of adultery. What is the basis of all drama, but what is commonly expressed as "vice defeated and

virtue triumphant," and is it likely that the public would pass a resolution never to countenance the representation of the defeat of one particular form of vice? What the public objects to is the comic and flippant treatment of adultery, as exemplified in so many hundred of French farces, where vice is triumphant, and has the laugh on its side, whilst virtue lies grovelling, and is made to look ridiculous. In spite, however, of the adapter's great mistake, *Fatherland* is still a play worthy of a better fate; and though Mr. Sterling is unequal to the character of Rysoor, and Miss Hodson unsuited to that of Dolores, the general acting is creditable. The scenery is on a large scale and well arranged, but the frequent firing off of weakly-charged muskets, combined with the constant groaning of the assembled multitudes, are irresistibly suggestive of the shooting galleries and fireworks at Cremorne.

The British drama has once more to lean on Mr. Byron, who is the solitary exponent of native talent this month, so far as a new play is concerned. He has written a comedy, or farce in three acts, for Mr. Toole, called *A Fool and his Money*, and both author and actor are more successful than of late, partly perhaps because no attempt is made to excite our tears by an exhibition of Mr. Toole's pathos. But the play belongs to the happily, at present, discredited (save in the case of Mr. Irving) order of "one-part" pieces, though Mr. Righton, who appears in it, strives, with ill success, to make the character he assumes of some importance. The St. James's has been opened for the performance of standard comedies with "short runs," and it would perhaps be unkind to say that the manager is making a virtue of necessity. Opera-bouffe has also been revived at the Philharmonic at Islington, but we doubt the permanent success of an establishment so far north that relies for support on the tooth-pickers of the West. At the Court Mr. Hare has revived *Victims*, a comedy by Mr. Tom Taylor, originally produced at the Haymarket twenty years ago. There has been for some time past a kind of artistic rivalry between the Court and Prince of Wales's, the aim at each theatre being completeness of representation and refinement of style. In this honourable contest the Court was beginning to be a little ahead, for when both resorted to the repertory of the Haymarket, and revived—the one *An Unequal Match*, the other *New Men and Old Acres*—it was felt that the Court company alone possessed the robustness and emphasis which were the redeeming points of the Haymarket style. But whilst the Prince of Wales has taken a distinct step in advance, and emancipated itself from its thinness of method, the Court has in *Victims* decidedly retrograded. To begin with, a play that barely lasts a couple of hours is hardly substantial enough, for though this mattered little at the Haymarket, where it was no uncommon thing for three farces to be played in addition to the comedy, the fashion of the day is to ignore everything but the principal piece of the evening. And this being the case an audience looks for something less flimsy than *Victims*, which for its plot depends upon one farcical incident and one situation, the latter of which, in following directly upon the former, falls flat. If, on the other hand, the author and manager are content to rely rather on the satire of the play than on its story, it must be remarked that changes in taste have taken place since 1857, and that in the matter of satire treated farcically, preference is now given to such as is contained in *Pink Dominos*. There being then a very weak story, which indeed seems like a pale reflection of that of the *House of Darnley*, and an attempted satire on æsthetic affectations which is not "spicy" enough even for those who might consider themselves the objects of it, *Victims* was not remarkably successful on the first night, and is probably not destined for a long run. Some trouble has been taken to bring the play up to date in the third act by introducing a picture after Du Maurier, the scene being a *salon* in which the characters of the play are shown to us in various stages of admiration and indifference, listening to the performance of an eminent pianiste. But this is not enough to atone for an evening of dullness, even though the professor is represented by Mr. David Fisher, who is known to be as distinguished a musician as he has been an actor. The Court company do not appear to advantage in *Victims*, and, after Mr. Fisher, the highest praise is due to Miss Henri, who acted with much grace and intelligence. Had not the audience been very much bored with the play she would doubtless have received that ovation which is usually given on first nights to those who make their first success.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

A. MARRIOTT (Nottingham).—The two bright little games are accepted, with thanks. One we insert in this No. and the other will appear next month.

IGNORAMUS.—The solution you ask for is as follows:—1 Q to Q 5 ch, &c.

T. THURSBY.—Mate in two moves, by 1 Kt to B 6, &c.

D. W. CLARK.—Problems to hand, with thanks. One of them in four moves is wrong, *e.g.*:

1 $\frac{\text{R to Q sq}}{\text{B to Q 5}}$ 2 $\frac{\text{B to K Kt 6 ch}}{\text{K to Q 3}}$ 3 Kt to Kt 8, &c.

G. J. SLATER.—Accept our best thanks for your courteous attention.

A. B. S. (Tetford).—We are greatly obliged for your attention.

S. L. (New Jersey).—Your letter of the 27th September came to hand only a few days ago. The problems shall have due honours, and we have addressed you through the post in reference to the other matters.

L. H. (Hamilton, Victoria).—"THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS" will be forwarded as requested. The only number of the *Spectator* at hand contains but a single paragraph on the subject of Chess.

J. S. A. (Torquay).—We can recommend Long's Key to the Chess Openings, published by Morgan, 67 Barbican.

R. W. (Leipsic.)—Your letter of the 3rd of August, from being in accurately addressed, was not received until a few days ago. We duly received the picture and acknowledged its receipt in our number for September last. We have written to you on the other snbjects discussed in your letter.

MIRON (Campton Village).—Any communication addressed here will come to hand in due time. We are still at our post.

WHIST.

J. G. U.—A and B have made three tricks, and A, having won the last trick, leads a Heart, Diamonds being Trumps. B having the four honours in his hand, puts them down on the table and claims the game. X at once says to B, "if you have a Heart that is a Revoke." B has a Heart in his hand and claims to play it to the trick. X contends that B has played a Trump to his partner's lead, having a Heart at the time and that the Revoke is established, as more than one card having been put down, one of the honours must be taken as led to the following trick?—*Ans.* B has put down the four honours simply to save time. He claims the game, and is entitled to it. There is no Revoke, the four cards put down are exposed cards. Your letter was misdirected.

T. Q. R. (Brighton).—No one will ever play with square cards if they can get round, and Hunt's round-cornered cards are the best that have been submitted to us.

H. M. J. (Coventry).—C. has exposed the two of Spades. B leads a Spade, D plays the Ace; C, last player, wishes to play the two of Spades, but B objects, and demands another of the suit. Has B the power to do so, or can C play the exposed card if he chooses?—*Ans.* No one can prevent C from getting rid of the exposed card.

G. A. (Temple).—A and C are partners against P and G. When it is his partner's lead, A leads out of turn the King of Diamonds. P says "Put that down it is an exposed card," and immediately calls a suit (Spades) from C, whose turn it is to lead, and who at once leads Spades. P then claims that the King of Diamonds is an exposed card, and must be kept on the table, and that he can call it, or refuse to allow it to be played at any time. A maintains that a suit having been called and played, the penalty has been paid, and that no further penalty can be demanded, and that if the King of Diamonds can be still demanded to be kept on the table, it cannot be called or be refused by P.—*Ans.* For leading out of turn, the adversaries can call a suit from the right leader, or can let him lead as he pleases, and call the exposed card. Having called a suit the exposed card can be taken up, and there is an end of the matter. P can never prevent the owner of an exposed card getting rid of it in due course of play. On a Diamond led he cannot say, "Do not play the exposed Diamond, play another." This is claim we have often heard, but we know of no authority for it.

LOO.

M.P.—Every player has the right to know who stands and who has thrown up his cards. He can ask each player, but inasmuch as this is inconvenient as tending to waste time, it is usual for the dealer to tell the player "one in," "2 in," or "miss leads and one stand hand," and so on, and we never heard any valid objection to such remarks.

D. T.—A B and C play Loo. A leads, C wins the trick, and leads. A follows suit with a losing card, and puts the other card on to the hands thrown up. B wins the trick, and leads a card which C could have won had he kept his third card. What is to be done?—*Ans.* A is looed. The throwing down the last card was an abandonment of his chance, and an acknowledgment that he could make no trick.

J. P.—A does not follow suit at Loo. What is the penalty? *Ans.* There are no binding rules at Loo; each set of players makes its own laws. In some places A is looed, and cannot take out any trick, that he made. The usual plan is to make him leave in the pool any trick that he may have won.

PIQUET.

C. and K.—Elder hand calls 5 cards. Answer: "Good." A, Quart Major. Answer: "Good." The player then looks at his cards and says, I have not 14 Queens I have only three. Answer: "Good." He then finds he has 14 Queens, and claims to count them. Can he do so?—*Ans.* The first claim of 14 Queens is rectified by calling three, and after calling three the player cannot go back to 14.

NOTICE TO CHESS EDITORS.

Will these gentlemen be so good as to note the address beneath. We constantly receive papers directed Westminster Papers, "London," and "England." This gives the Post Office authorities unnecessary trouble. All communications should be addressed "Editor, Westminster Papers, Civil Service Printing Co., 8, Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C."

The Westminster Papers.

1st MARCH, 1878.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

As we ventured to anticipate, the plan for the appropriation of the Lowenthal Memorial Fund set forth in the letter from Mr. Medley, that appeared in our last issue, is cordially approved by the general body of Chess amateurs in London. Here and there (of course we really mean there) some expressions of dissatisfaction have been heard, but the persons from whom these proceed have, evidently, failed to perceive the full scope of Mr. Medley's design. Any one incapable of depreciating the income to be derived from a safe investment of £274 is not likely to be stricken by the "validity" of arguments of any kind, and we have therefore nothing to say to him, but the grumblers who suggest that Mr. Medley's plan fails either in advancing the true interests of the game or in keeping green the late Herr Lowenthal's name in the memory of Chess-players may be referred to the proceedings of the City of London Chess Club. The Committee of that association having received from Mr. Medley an appropriation from the Lowenthal fund of the sum of fifty guineas, has resolved to use the donation in such a way as, in our judgment, will effectually accomplish what the grumblers profess to desire. Associating the late Herr Lowenthal's name with memorial trophies, the poseession of which shall be open to annual competition, so that they can never become the absolute property of any occasional winner, is as near an approach to "perpetuity" as the average mind can conceive, and the provision of a prize for the emulation of tyros must necessarily result in promoting a desire for excellence among our "younger sort," some of whom, let us hope, are destined to become the Chess masters of the next generation.

In the country several club matches have been played during the past month. On the 16th, fifteen champions from the Manchester Athanæum journeyed to Bradford, and there engaged in a contest with a like number of the local amateurs, winning fourteen games and losing nine, seven games being drawn. The following table shows the score :—

Bradford.	Won	Manchester Athenæum.	Won.	Drawn
M. L. Lewis	0	H. Gazale	0	2
S. W. Ward	0	E. H. Wood	2	0
Whittaker	0	J. Baddeley	2	0
Petty	1	J. Fish	1	0
Meusing	2	H. Heap	0	0
Onions	0	Bateson Wood	2	0
Wall	0	E. Mitchell	0	2
W. J. Wait	1	K. M. Giltay	1	0
Knapton	0	O. Hockmeyer	1	1

Bradford.	Won	Manchester Athenæum.	Won.	Drawn
Meilzner	1	T. B. Wilson	0	1
Hall	1	E. Evans	1	0
Posselt	0	J. Heap	1	1
Fieldsend	1	Zollner	1	0
Ampt	0	R. Lewis	2	0
O. North	2	C. Brevig	0	0
Total	9	Total	14	7

Dudley and Stourbridge, mustering also fifteen players, played a match against Birmingham, winning with a score of twenty-one to seventeen ; drawn games, of which there were four, counting a half to each player. The score was as follows :—

The Allies.		Birmingham	
Mr. T. Hill	0	Mr. John Halford	3
„ G. H. Mainwaring	2½	Rev. T. C. Yarranton	½
„ H. W. Wooldridge	0	Mr. J. F. Ryder	2
„ J. Pitchfork	1	Dr. Freeman	1
„ J. Doughty	0	Mr. W. Bridgwater	1
„ H. Vicarage	1	„ T. F. Best	0
„ J. W. Franklin	2	„ C. Wallbank	1
„ T. Brown	1	„ J. Hilton	2
„ McCarthy	1	„ A. Michael	2

The Allies.		Birmingham.	
Mr. F. Brown	2½	Mr. E. P. Warren	½
„ H. Freer	1½	„ S. G. Kempson	1½
„ Young	1½	„ A. K. Sutton	1½
„ J. Brookbanks	2	Rev. H. D. Nicholson	0
„ Fenn	2	Mr. R. Fowler	1
„ White	3	„ S. Temple	0
	21		17

And Littlehampton, in an encounter with Chichester, came off with a drawn battle.

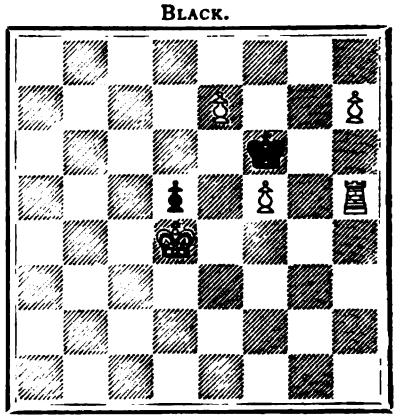
The *Glasgow Herald* records a fight between two local Chess clubs—the Central and the Queen's Park—played on the 4th ultimo at the Rooms of the latter Association. The victory of the Queen's Park Club appears decisive in view of a score of fifteen to five ; but the Central proposes to try again before the season closes.

The *Huddersfield College Magazine* has now grown to such proportions, in a double sense, that praise, although more deserved than ever, must appear superfluous to English Chess-players. All the contributions to the

late problem tourney having been published, an instalment of the award of the Judge, Mr. H. J. C. Andrews, appeared in the February number, and the editor announces his intention of organizing another competition. The number under notice contains a self-mate composition in fifteen moves, dedicated by Mr. Townshend, of Newport, to Mr. William Nash, of St. Neots; and the composer offers a "subscription order" for a copy of Mr. Gossip's proposed work upon the Openings to the successful solver of it.

The *Derbyshire Advertiser* is always lively and entertaining, although its editor, like ourselves, appears to have a turn for controversy. Most people have indeed that think for themselves. In a recent issue of our contemporary we observed a puzzle requiring eight Pawns to be placed on the Chess-board, so that no two should occupy the same file or line, diagonally or otherwise. We may be mistaken, but this puzzle appears to us to be very like our old friend, the eight queens' problem, brought down to the "irreducible minimum" of Pawns. We agree with the *Derbyshire Advertiser* that a little nonsense now and then can do no harm to either Chess or Chess-players, but for all that there should always in a Chess joke be some clue to the meaning of the jester. The "Fatal Problem" from the *Amateur World* is a case in point. Even if we concede, for the sake of the joke, that the King is a "piece" in no exceptional sense, the solution is obscured to young amateurs by the reference to Rule XXI. because there is no Rule XXI. in the Chess code, whether we are guided by the *Praxis* or the British Chess Association. It ought to be unnecessary to say that the *Handbook* rules are as extinct as the dodo: The problem of Mr. Fourmouvre is also open to the objection that in making a King when promoting his Pawn to a "piece," he places it *en prise*—a manœuvre that he cannot justify by any Chess law that was ever written. We remember seeing many years ago in the *Newcastle Journal* a problem founded upon the laxity of expression that exists in the so-called Rule XXI. by an author who, probably, was anonymous on the occasion because he was self conscious of being obscure. We give a diagram of the position in the margin, and the conditions of the problem are that White is to play and mate in five moves without queening a Pawn. The solution is, 1 P to K 8, a King, K to Kt 2, 2 P to R 8, a Rook, K to B 3, 3 K takes P, K to Kt 2, 4 K to Q 6, K to B 3, Castles with the new King and Rook, check-mate.

BLACK.



WHITE.

M. Rosenthal's Chess *séance* on the 10th ultimo, when he played eight games simultaneously, *sans voir*, was remarkably successful in several senses. In the first place because the Parisian champion came out of the *melée* without the loss of a game, and in the second, because over three hundred spectators actually paid an admission fee of ten francs, to witness a display of his power of playing Chess without seeing the boards and pieces. M. Rosenthal's adversaries on the occasion were MM. Madrazo de Bourier, Mismer, Vié, Givot, Bidray, Feisthamel, and Captain Moreau, and he defeated all of them save MM. Bidray and Moreau, whose games were drawn. The play commenced at nine o'clock in the evening, and did not terminate until two in the following morning, the blindfold player throughout the five hours, dividing his attention impartially between his eight opponents and his friends, a teapot, a bottle of eau de cologne, a list of the adversaries' names, and a well-stocked cigarette case.

The *Deutsche Schachzeitung* has not come to hand this month, but the *Schachmatni Listock* of St. Petersburgh, a very casual visitor is here, and the letter-press, as usual, excites our liveliest curiosity. We profess to be quite up to the standard of the games and problems, but the chess Miltons of St. Petersburgh might be as mute as they are certain to be inglorious, while Chess writers are—as they are. Alack the day, we cannot even translate the editor's name!

From America this month we have tidings that the prize for consultation games offered by a New York Amateur, has been won by Messrs. Mackenzie and Delmar, that the prizes for the best problems in two and three moves in the *Danbury News* tourney has been won by Mr. Gilberg of Brooklyn, and that a handicap tourney is progressing at the Manhattan Chess Club, Café Logeling, in the Bowery, the competitors including the names of Perrin, Delmar, Rice, Frankenberg, etc. The *Hartford Times* contains, among other things of interest too numerous for special mention, an account of a private exhibition of the Automaton Chess-player lately exhibited at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, and now at the New York Aquarium. We take this opportunity of reproducing the poem, to which was awarded the first prize in the late literary tourney of the *Hartford Times*. It is from the pen of Mrs. Miron Hazeltine, known in Chess literature by the *non de plume* of "Phania," and will be found on another page.

The Annual General Meeting of the City of London Chess Club took place on Friday the 22nd ultimo, at Mouflet's Hotel, Newgate Street, and the retiring president, Mr. Gastineau, occupied the chair. The report, which was read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. F. Down, brought forward numerous facts indicative of prosperity such as the election of 35 new members during the year then closing, the entry of 64 combatants into the annual handicap, the recent celebration of the club's 25th anniversary, &c. It appeared that financially there was something to be desired, inasmuch as there was a small deficit; but this, as Mr. Howard, the Treasurer, explained, was only nominal, there being a large amount owing in subscriptions. It is easy to understand that in an association

like the City of London Club, with members spread all over the metropolis, there is a chronic difficulty in the collection of revenue. Gentlemen belonging to an association which is served by officials who receive nothing for their pains ought not to give trouble, but they do. They ought to pay up of their own accord, but no such idea occurs to them, and as to circulars, it is well known that the feminine members of a household immediately turn them into spills. Here an idea occurs to us: there is a Rent Guarantee Society, which for a moderate commission takes the collection of rentals into its own hands, why should there not be a Subscription Guarantee Society with a like object? However to resume. Mr. Gastineau, in moving the adoption of the Report, commented upon its satisfactory features, and then proceeded to make an announcement which was received with much applause. This was to the effect that Mr. Medley had decided upon handing to the Committee of the City of London Chess Club the sum of fifty guineas out of the Lowenthal Fund. The election of officers for the ensuing year, then took place Messrs. Lord and Heywood acting as the scrutineers, and the result was as follows:—President, Mr. R. Clark; Vice-President, Mr. H. F. Gastineau; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Howard; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. F. Down; Committee, Messrs. Adamson, Baynes, Bussy, W. A. Green, Lovelock, Manning, Pizzi, Potter, Watts and Webber; Auditors, Messrs. C. Murton and F. W. Lord; Librarian, Mr. Adamson. The following gentlemen were re-elected as honorary members, viz., Bird, Boden, Burn, Delannoy, Duffy, Harrwitz, Horwitz and MacDonnell. The annual dinner was fixed for Wednesday the 20th instant, and after various votes of thanks the proceedings terminated.

With reference to the utilization of the very liberal donation of fifty guineas above referred to, there are matters of detail to be settled, but the committee of the City Club have agreed in principle upon a certain scheme, which having been submitted to Mr. Medley, has, we are informed, received his approval. It is proposed to establish two annual even tourneys, with a cup for each, to be called the "Lowenthal Memorial Cups," and the respective winners to hold the same for one year, after which tenure the trophies are again to be the objects of competition. Each of the six classes unto which the members according to their strength are divided will in its turn compete. The first year there will in all probability be an even tourney between first class players, and he who shews himself best man will be the champion for the year, and as such, the temporary holder of one of the cups. The like procedure will be followed in respect of one of the lower classes—say the sixth, as indeed is, we believe, contemplated. The best sixth-rate man will be the champion of his class, and as such, entitled to hold the second cup. Next year it will be the turn of two other classes, probably the second and fifth, then the remaining two, viz.: the third and fourth. In this manner it is hoped that these annual contests will go on until the two cups become covered with the names of the winners, and what is to happen then no man knows. The nett result of what may at first sight seem a somewhat complicated arrangement is that instead of an annual trophy for one class to the exclusion of all the others, there will be rotation, whereby every class will have a contest to itself every three years. The scheme proceeds upon the principle that the weaker players ought not to be left out in the cold, and we have no doubt that it will work very well indeed.

In chronicling the doings of the various metropolitan Chess Associations, we will commence with the strongest of them, namely, the Jewish Club, which meets at Hutchison House, Hutchison Street, Aldgate. We find that on the 7th ult. its champions went to the Mitford, at Dalston, and there fought with the North London, the latter being defeated by nine games to two, with one draw. Victory favoured the Jewish players again on the 18th ult., the losers being the Athenæum members who came to Aldgate. This was a very decisive battle, for the winners' score was eleven to two with one draw. On the 25th inst. the Bermondsey players came to Hutchison House, but the home team won 5 games and lost 4. Having received the score sheet of the first named match, we transcribe same as follows:—

Jewish	Won	North London	Won	Drawn
Mr. Mocatta	1	Mr. Lamb	0	0
„ Gunzberg	2	„ Stevens	0	0
„ L. Cohen	1	„ Howard	1	0
„ Pfahl	2	„ Oliver	0	0
„ Harris	0	„ Eckenstein	0	1
„ Israel	1	„ Symons	1	0
„ Samuel	1	„ Orielsma	0	0
„ Moses	1	„ Hepworth	0	0
	9		2	1

The Athenæum next claims our notice, besides the contest above-mentioned, it has played four matches during the past month, viz.: on the 2nd ult. with the Eclectic, who came to Camden Road and were there defeated by their hosts, who scored 9 to 7, with two draws. On the 4th the Athenæum players went to Wood Street and beat the Gresham Club by 7 games to 3 with one draw. On the 9th they proceeded to Wilkin Street and defeated the Kentish Town Club by 6 games to 3 with 2 draws; but after this fortune acted the Dalilah and handed them over on the 13th to the Phillistines of the Railway Clearing House, who scored 7 to 5 with 2 draws. Mr. J. Tarrant, the

honorary secretary of the victorious club, having supplied us with the score sheet of this occasion, we give same as under :—

Railway Clearing House	Won	Athenæum	Won	Drawn
Mr. Knight	1	Dr. Batt	1	0
„ Tarrant	2	Mr. Griffith	0	0
„ Hill	1	„ Inman	0	1
„ Kindell Senior	0	„ Bowyer	1	0
„ Hoare	0	„ Hamlyn	1	0
„ Kindell, Junior	1	„ Smith	0	0
„ Cox	1	„ Clark	0	0
„ Templeton	1	„ Spicer	0	1
„ Taylor	0	„ Crisp	1	0
„ Davis	0	„ Thompson	1	0
	7		5	2

The Shaftesbury Club have played four matches, all of which they won, viz. : with the Eclectic at Canonbury Tower, when the score was 5 to 2 : with the Excelsior at the Bedford Institute on January 23rd, score 7 to 1, with 1 draw ; with the North London at the Bedford Institute on the 19th ult., scoring then 8 to 2, with two draws ; and lastly a return match with the Excelsior played at Camberwell Hall on the 20th ult, when the score was 5 to 2. Altogether Mr. Barber is to be congratulated upon the achievements of the association, which has the good fortune to possess him as its secretary.

The following is a record of other inter-club matches ; Railway Clearing House v. Excelsior, at Seymour Street, Euston Square, on the 2nd ult., won by the former, who scored 9 to 1, with two draws. Peckham Mutuals, v. Excelsior, played at the College Memorial Schools on the 9th ult. There were 11 combatants on each side, and the Mutuals won by a majority of 2 games. Eclectic, v. Ibis, at 62 Ludgate Hill on the 12th ult. Each side won 4 games with 1 draw, and honours were therefore even. Bermondsey v. Greenwich played at the rooms of the former on the 16th ult. Five games were contested of which the home team won 4 and the other was drawn. Eclectic v. Hackney at Canonbury Tower, on the 19th ult. The former were victorious, their score being 5 games to 2 and three draws. Eclectic v. Excelsior, on the 23rd ult. at Camberwell Hall. The former won 4 games, lost 3, 2 were drawn and an unfinished game between Messrs. Wilson and Hoon was referred for adjudication. The first named player, who was one of the representatives of the Excelsior, claims a win and should it be so adjudged, the match will be drawn, but otherwise the Eclectic will be the victors.

On the 5th ult. Mr. Blackburne played blindfold against ten members of the Old Change Chess Club. He polished off seven of them, had to strike his flag to one, and drew the other two. Taking his performances at Bradford, Manchester Chess Club, Manchester Church Club, Middlesborough-on-Tees, and the last affair at the Old Change, we find that Mr. Blackburne within a period of slightly over two months, played forty-three blindfold games, whereof he won thirty, drew eleven, and lost only two, a highly creditable, and also very remarkable achievement. We may here mention that Mr. Blackburne will give a blindfold exhibition on Saturday the 16th instant at Mouflet's Hotel, Newgate Street. His opponents, we are informed, will be eight players representing the various local clubs of the metropolis.

The City of London Handicap has now dwindled to its shortest span, there being only six players left out of the sixty-four who originally entered. In division A, Mr. Eschwege, having successfully run the gauntlet of five rounds, has become one of the last two competitors, and consequently, must take either first or second prize. He awaits the result of the match between Messrs. Potter and Huckvale, who have each won a game. Exactly the same stage has been reached in division B, Mr. Heywood having become entitled to either third or fourth prize, while the other two players, Messrs. Walthew and George, have each won a game.

THE FINAL MATE.

By Phania (Mrs. Miron Hazeltine).

Obey thy genius, for a minister it is unto the throne of Fate."—Festus.

The sweet-brier lifted its graceful head,
Its spicy odour around was shed,
The window shading, filling the room
Of the village pastor with sweet perfume ;
The while he studied his Latin and Greek,
And wrote his sermons from week to week ;
Received the visits of Norah Brown,
Or battled at Chess with Doctor Drown.

Poor Norah Brown, with her crutch and cane,
Came daily hobbling along the lane,
In the pastor's study an hour to spend,
'Mong books and prints he would kindly lend,
The crippled, suffering child to please,
Who knew so little of pleasure or ease.

A bright June morning. In shining dew
The sweet-brier sparkled, while through and through,
'Mid leaves and blossoms, a humming-bird
With darting flashes the dew-drops stirred ;

Now sipping sweets on its well-poised wing,
And then away like a fairy thing.
But parson Lynch neither saw nor heard
The blooming brier or the humming bird;
As with mind enrapt, and head bent down,
He studied Gambits with Doctor Drown.

With toiling footsteps along the lane,
Came Norah Brown with her crutch and cane;
And, drawing near to the open door,
She sees what she never had seen before.
Poor little Norah, with wondering eyes,
Observed the game in a mute surprise;
Forgetting picture—forgetting scroll—
By the strife absorbed to her inmost soul;
She scanned each movement of piece or pawn,
As though a fortune was staked thereon.

How long she watched them she never knew;
But when the doctor at length withdrew,
Approached the parson in bashful way,
And begged him to teach her the wondrous play.

Then every day, through the shady lane,
Came little Norah with crutch and cane;
But books and pictures unheeded lay,
While she and the pastor at Chess would play.

The bloom of spring could not ever last—
The apple-blossom to fruitage passed;
The fields were glowing with golden grain,
The gorgeous summer was on the wane;
As bloom and brightness oft bring decay,
So surely was Norah passing away.
Then ceased her steps through the graveled lane;
She kept her couch through the days of pain;
But brave in spirit, the men and board,
Were placed by her side, and she deeply pored
O'er prowess of Queen or belted Knight,
O'er Rook or Bishop in fresh delight.

The face of Norah grew thin and old,
As the days passed on into winter's cold;
And though her features oft wore a smile,
A tinge of sorrow was there the while.
The parson's footsteps along the lane
Now echoed, for Norah's crutch and cane
Were idly leaning against the wall,
In useless silence to wait her call.
Her visits missing, the pastor said
He gladly came to her patient bed,
To talk of her coming happiness,
And lighten the hours by playing chess.

The snows of winter had come and gone,
The grass was springing upon the lawn,
The dark, bare stalks of the sweet-brier grew
In wondrous beauty revived anew;
Again the humming bird bent to sup
The honey stored in its glowing cup;
Again was the village preacher's room
With the spices filled of its rich perfume.
The dew-drops glistened along the land
The good man traversed in moody vein;
He knew these visits would soon be o'er,
For Norah was nearing the other shore.
Of hopeful lessons the pastor read,
One morning sitting by Norah's bed;
He pictured regions of love and delight,
Where sickness, sorrow nor pain would blight,
But joys enduring, in boundless store
Of perfect life are hers evermore.

"'Tis beautiful all! I oft'time dream
Of the city of God by the golden stream;
Of bowers of light with no taint of distress—
But, tell me if there we may still play Chess?"

"My child, enjoyment will there be given
Which suits the mind, or it were not Heaven;
We do not know the dress or employ,
In future homes of enduring joy,
But this we know; all forms of delight
Expand the soul and rejoice the sight."

"Now, bring the board! One lingering sup
Of pleasure, ere earth-life is swallowed up
In the vast Unknown, whose precincts lie
Somewhere, we know not, in earth or sky."
Long time o'er the game entranced they hung,
The mind was busy, but mute the tongue;
Each played with that careful earnestness
Which looks for a sure, complete success.
The thin, white fingers of Norah Brown
O'er the Chess-board stray like flecks of down;
Or here, or thither, each piece is sent
On mission of swift destruction bent:
Advance she turns to a quick retreat,
Till the preacher's doom is a sure defeat.

With painful effort from off her bed
Has Norah managed to lift her head;
She eagerly seizes a sombre Knight,
Her features glowing with wondrous light,
And plants it down with exultant ring,
A final mate to the parson's King.

"I've won! I've won!" The invalid lies
Back on the pillow. Out from her eyes
The light is fading; the pale lips part—
A gasp, a quiver, a throb of the heart,
A sigh, as of pain, a short quick breath—
Earth life is ended—conquered is death.

The sweet-brier still is bright in its bloom,
While o'er the garden and through the room
Its breath is wafted upon the air,
Like spicy incense of morning prayer;
And still the humming-bird, darting through,
From its branches shakes the pearly dew;
While often the pastor, on quiet days,
At the royal game with the doctor plays:
But the little form that with crutch and cane
So often hobbled along the lane
Is laid away in a hopeful rest,
With white hands folded across the breast;
Nor winter's tempest, nor summer's sun
Disturbs its sleep—she has won! she has won!

Hartford Times.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. 999.—By G. J. SLATER.

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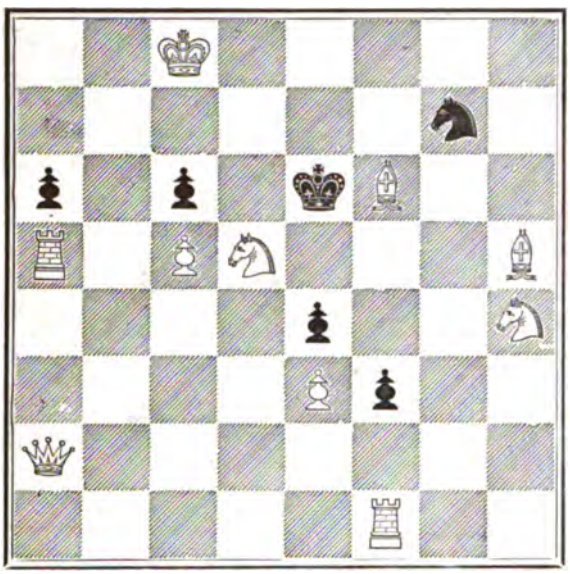

WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 1000.—By T. TARRANT.

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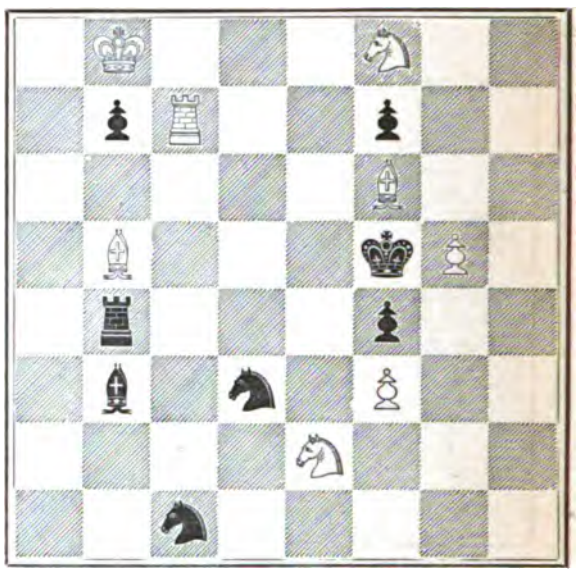

WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 1001.—By C. CALLENDER.

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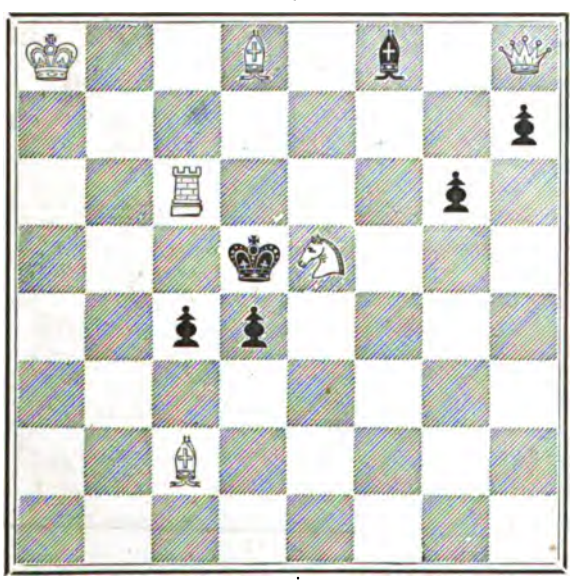

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 1002.—By G. BARLOW.

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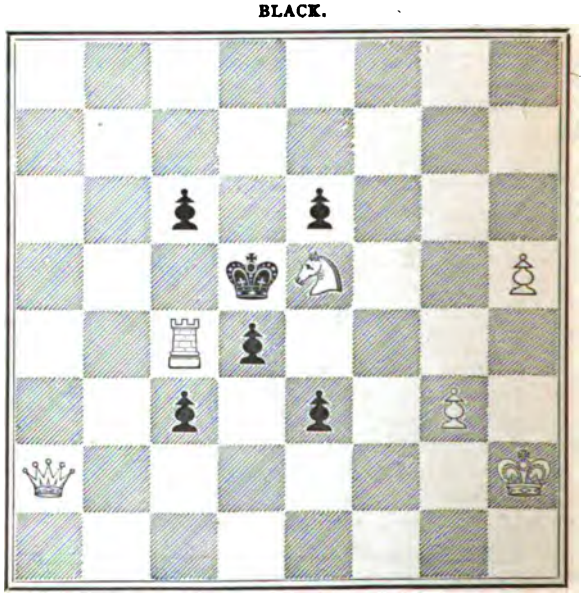

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. 1003.—By D. W. CLARK.

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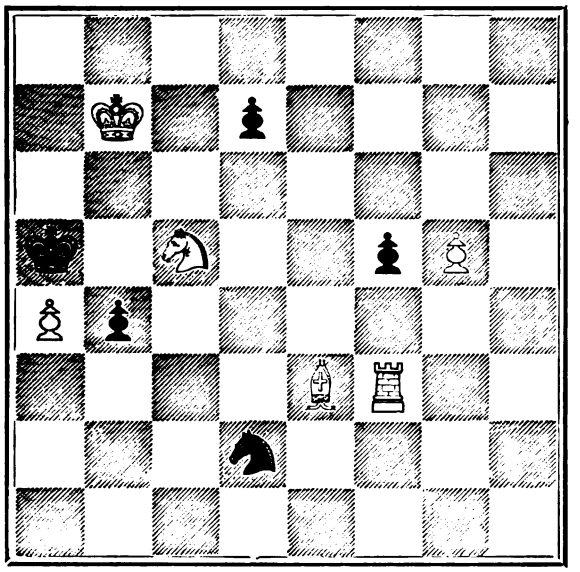

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 1004.—By H. E. KIDSON.

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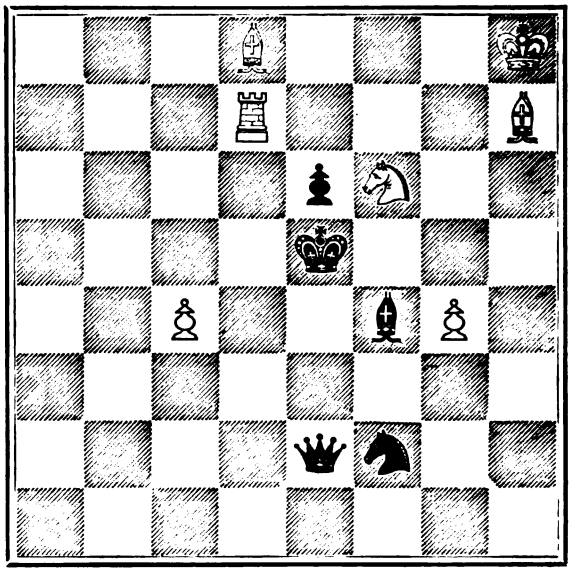

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 1005.—By J. W. ABBOTT.

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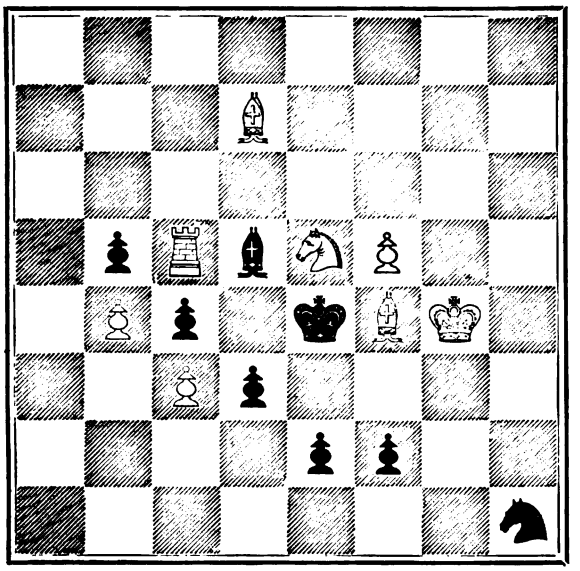

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEM No. 1006.—By G. J. SLATER.

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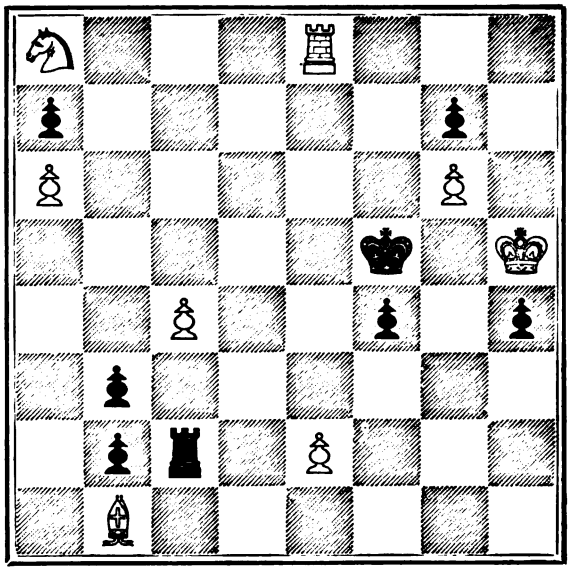


WHITE.

White to play and mate in five moves.

633623 A

GAMES.

Noted by W. N. Potter.

GAME 50.

Played at Purssell's on the 18th of December last, and sent for publication by Mr. Mocatta.

√ (King's Gambit.)

White. Mr. Mocatta.	Black. Mr. Potter.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 Kt to K B 3	3 P to Q 4 (a)
4 P takes P	4 Kt to K B 3 (b)
5 B to Q B 4 (c)	5 B to Q 3
6 Castles	6 Castles
7 P to Q 4	7 B to K Kt 5
8 Q to Q 3	8 P to B 3
9 P takes P	9 Kt takes P
10 P to B 3	10 Q to B 2
11 P to Kt 4	11 Q R to K sq
12 B to Kt 3	12 B to R 4
13 Kt to Q R 3	13 B to Kt 3
14 Q to Q sq	14 P to Q R 3
15 Kt to B 4	15 Kt to K 5
16 B to Q 2 (d)	16 P to Kt 4
17 Kt to Kt 2 (e)	17 B to R 4
18 Kt to Q 3	18 P to Kt 4
19 Q to B sq	19 P to R 3
20 P to Q R 4	20 K to R 2
21 P takes P	21 P takes P
22 Kt to B 5	22 B takes Kt
23 Kt P takes B	23 P to B 4 (f)
24 B to Q 5	24 Kt to K B 3
25 B takes Kt	25 Q takes B
26 R to R 7 ch	26 K to R sq
27 Q to Kt sq	27 R to K 7
28 Q to Q 3	28 Q to K 5
29 Q takes P	29 P to Kt 5 (g)
30 Kt to R 4	30 R takes B
31 P to B 6	31 Q to K 6 ch
32 K to R sq	32 Q to Q 6
33 Q takes Q	33 R takes Q
34 Kt takes P	34 R takes B P
35 Kt to K 7	35 Kt to K 5
36 P to B 7	36 P to B 6
37 P to B 8 (queening)	37 K R takes Q
38 Kt takes R	38 R takes Kt
39 P takes P	39 P takes P
40 R to R 5	40 Kt to B 7 ch
41 K to Kt sq	41 Kt to R 6 ch
42 K to R sq	42 R to K Kt sq
43 R to R 2 (h)	43 B to Kt 3 (i)

White resigns.

(a) Black should get rather an inferior game, I imagine, by this move.

(b) B to Q 3 is probably better.

(c) P to B 4, to be followed if B to Q 3, by P to Q 4, is preferable.

(d) At the time of playing, I thought Kt 2, the best place for the Bishop, and find myself still adhering to that opinion.

(e) Ought to have taken off the Bishop undoubtedly.

(f) Critical now for both sides.

(g) It was suggested to me afterwards, by a competent judge that R takes P ch would have forced the game. That line of play, however, is by no means so effective as might be supposed. The following variations will sufficiently show what the proposed sacrifice would have led to:—

	29 R takes P ch
30 K takes R	30 P to Kt 5
31 Q to Kt 7	31 P takes Kt ch
32 K to R 3	32 B to Kt 5 ch
33 K to R 4	33 R to K Kt sq

34 Q to K 7, and I prefer White's game.

Sub variation.

	31 Q to K 7 ch
32 K to Kt sq (only move)	32 R to K Kt sq

33 Kt to Kt 5

which threatens mate in two; consequently Black has no time to push on either of the advanced Pawns. His best move seems to be 33 P takes Kt, to which White replies as before, 34 Q to K 7, with apparently an even, if not a superior game.

(h) If 43 R takes B, Black replies with R to Kt 8 ch mating next move.

(i) I suppose I went here, as Mr. Mocatta has it down so, but B to B 2, is somewhat neater.

√ GAME 51.

Being a comical instance of a sudden and unexpected collapse through not looking ahead.

Scotch Gambit.

White. Mr. A. Marriott.	Black. Mr. A. J. Stevenson.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 P to Q 4	3 P takes P
4 Kt takes P	4 B to B 4
5 B to K 3	5 Q to B 3
6 P to Q B 3	6 K Kt to K 2
7 B to K 2	7 P to Q 4
8 B to B 3	8 P takes P (a)
9 B takes P	9 Q to K 4
10 B takes Kt ch	10 Kt takes B
11 Castles	11 Castles
12 R to K sq	12 Q to B 3
13 Kt takes Kt	13 Q takes Kt
14 B takes B	14 Q takes B
15 Kt to Q 2	15 R to Q sq (b)
16 Kt to Kt 3	16 Q to K Kt 4
17 P to K B 4	17 R takes Q (c)
18 Q R takes R and wins.	

(a) The correct move here is B takes Kt, as played by Zukertort against myself, in our match.

(b) Futile. He should bring out the B to K 3.

(c) Like the conscientious pope mentioned lately by Dean Stanley, who signed his own death-warrant when requested.

√ GAME 52.

One of a few played at Bath between Mr. Thorold and Professor Wayte in December last. The results were very even, Mr. Thorold scoring the odd game.

King's Bishop's Opening.

White. Mr. Thorold.	Black Professor Wayte.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 B to B 4	2 Kt to K B 3
3 Q to K 2	3 Kt to B 3
4 P to Q B 3	4 B to B 4
5 P to Q 3	5 P to Q 3
6 B to K Kt 5	6 P to K R 3
7 B to R 4	7 P to K Kt 4 (a)
8 B to K Kt 3	8 P to K R 4
9 P to K R 4	9 P to Kt 5
10 Kt to Q 2	10 P to R 3
11 P to B 4	11 Q to K 2
12 P takes P	12 P takes P
13 Castles	13 Kt to R 4 (b)
14 P to Q 4	14 Kt takes B (c)
15 Q takes Kt	15 P takes P
16 P takes P	16 B to Kt 3
17 P to K 5	17 Kt to R 2
18 Kt to K 2	18 B to Q 2
19 Kt to Q B 3	19 Castles (Q R)
20 K R to B sq	20 K R to B sq
21 P to Q 5	21 K to Kt sq
22 Q Kt to K 4	22 P to K B 4
23 P to Q 6 (d)	23 Q to K 3
24 Kt to Q 5	24 R to Q B sq
25 Q Kt to B 3	25 P takes P
26 Q to Kt 3	26 B to Q B 4
27 P takes P	27 B to K 6 (ch) (e)
28 K to Kt sq	28 Kt to B 3
29 Kt takes B (f)	29 Q takes Kt
30 B to K B 2	30 R takes Kt
31 P takes R	31 Q to K 7 (g)
32 Q to Kt 6	32 Q to Kt 4 (ch)
33 K to R sq	33 Q takes Q
34 B takes Q	34 B to B 3 (h)
35 R takes P	35 B takes P
36 R takes Kt and wins	

(a) Rarely good at so early a stage. 7 Q to K 2 appears best.

(b) This unsound looking move is

justifiable, and perhaps necessary as White threatens Kt to Kt 3.

(c) The Pawn should have been taken first in my opinion. I do not find that either 15 P to K 5, or 15 P takes P is so dangerous as it seems.

(d) This dashing advance brings on a highly interesting and very complicated position wherefrom White emerges, and so far as I have seen, deserves to emerge with the better game.

(e) If he take the Pawn, the reply is Kt to Kt 6, winning the exchange.

(f) Strongly played and lassoing victory.

(g) Professor Wayte, by checking at K 5 could win back the exchange, but not with any good result, *e.g.*

	31 Q to K 5 ch
32 K to R sq	32 B to R 5
33 Q to Kt 6	33 B takes R
34 R takes B	34 Q to K 7
35 Q to R 7 ch	35 K to B sq
36 Q to R 8 ch	36 K to Q 2
37 Q takes P ch	37 K to K sq (Q sq no better)
38 P to Q 7 ch or R to K sq	

There are of course other lines of play, but White wins in all of them.

(h) The game is gone, but this advances the result. Kt to K 5 seems his best.

✓ GAME 53.

Played between Messrs. E. Freeborough and J. R Clark.

Allgaier's Gambit. Thorold's Attack.

White.	Black.
Mr. E. Freeborough.	J. R. Clark.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 Kt to K B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 P to K R 4	4 P to Kt 5
5 Kt to Kt 5	5 P to K R 3
6 Kt takes P	6 K takes Kt
7 P to Q 4	7 P to Q 4 (a)
8 B takes P	8 P takes P
9 B to B 4 ch	9 K to Kt 2 (b)
10 Castles	10 Kt to K B 3
11 Q to Q 2	11 Kt to Q B 3
12 Kt to Q B 3 (c)	12 B to K 2 (d)
13 Kt to K 2	13 B to K B 4
14 P to Q 5	14 B to B 4 ch
15 K to R sq	15 Kt to K 2
16 Kt to Kt 3	16 B to Kt 3
17 B to K 5	17 Kt to Kt sq
18 P to R 5	18 B to R 2
19 R to B 4	19 B to Q 3
20 R takes P ch	20 K to B 2
21 B takes Kt	21 Kt takes B
22 Q R to K B sq	22 Q to K 2 (e)
23 Q takes P	23 Q R to K Kt sq
24 R takes R	24 R takes R
25 Q takes B ch	25 R to Kt 2
26 Q takes R ch	26 K takes Q
27 Kt to B 5 ch	27 K to B 2
28 Kt takes Q and wins.	

(a) I imagine 7 Q to K sq would be a pretty fair move, the idea being that the King, in answer to the Bishop's check, should go to K 2, and thence to Q sq. I do not know that this notion has as yet occurred to any one. Black of course gives up both the Pawns, but he has his piece, and an apparently defensible position. Indeed, in various instances he threatens something on his own account.

(b) Mr. Freeborough makes reference to a game between Mr. Thorold and Professor Wayte, published lately in the *Illustrated London News*, in which Mr. Wayte played 9 K to Kt 3, followed by B to Kt 2. As Mr. Freeborough justly observes, the correct reply to 9 K to Kt 3 is not 10 Castles, as played by Mr. Thorold on the occasion in question, but 10 Kt to B 3, followed, if B to Kt 2, by 11 Kt to Q 5, and there is no doubt White obtains a very strong game that way.

(c) A novelty, and one having points.

(d) If Q takes P, the two consorts are of course exchanged, and B goes to K 5 with a good attack. The effect of 12 Kt takes P is not, however, so easy to determine. In that case 13 B to K 5 would lead to some extraordinary play, with variations and sub-variations *ad libitum*. 13 Kt takes P has also claims to attention, if indeed, it be not preferable to the other continuation. I am not going to produce a forest of figures, and can only state, as the result of my analysis, that taking the Q P would not, in my opinion, have ensued to Black's advantage. At the same time, it is not clear that the move made, viz., 12 B to K 2 is best. I should prefer B to Q 3.

(e) At this point I fancy there was a saving clause for Black, *e.g.*:—

	22 R to K Kt sq
23 R takes R	23 K takes R
24 Q takes P	24 Q to K B sq
25 Q to Kt 5 ch	25 Q to Kt 2
26 Q takes Kt	26 Q takes Q
27 R takes Q	27 B takes Kt
28 P to Q 6 dis ch	28 K to R sq
29 P to Q 7	29 R to Q sq
30 R to B 7	30 B to Q 3,
(If B to K 6, the Pawn goes on)	

And to say the least, Black ought not to lose.

GAME 54. ✓

Played at the Divan, between Messrs. Robey and Beardsell.

(Petroff Defence.)

White.	Black.
Mr. Robey.	Mr. Beardsell.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to K B 3
3 Kt to B 3	3 P to Q 3 (a)
4 B to B 4	4 B to K 2

GAME 54—*continued.*

White.	Black.
5 Castles	5 Castles
6 P to K R 3	6 P to K R 3
7 P to Q 4	7 P takes P
8 Kt takes P	8 P to B 3
9 P to B 4	9 P to Q Kt 4 (b)
10 B to Q 3	10 P to Kt 5 (c)
11 Q Kt to K 2	11 P to Q R 4
12 Kt to K Kt 3	12 Kt to R 3
13 B to K 3	13 Q to B 2
14 Q Kt to B 5	14 B to Q sq
15 P to K 5 (d)	15 P takes P
16 P takes P	16 Kt to Q 4
17 Q to Kt 4	17 Q takes P
18 B takes P (e)	18 B to Kt 3
19 B takes P	19 Q B takes Kt (f)
20 R takes B	20 B takes Kt ch
21 K to R sq	21 Kt to K 6 (g)
22 B takes Q dis ch	22 Kt takes Q
23 R to Kt 5 mate.	

(a) B to Kt 5 is better.

(b) In the spirit of the profligate who sacrifices the future for the present. I should say Kt takes P would be a pretty fair move.

(c) Such dislocation of the Pawns, unless for some real gain, is against all good rules.

(d) Sound and strong.

(e) The initial move of a very brilliant combination, but lacking, as I believe, the quality of perfect soundness, whereas taking with the Kt would yield much profit, *e.g.*

18 Kt takes P ch	18 K to R sq
19 Kt takes B P ch	19 R takes Kt
20 R takes R	20 K to Kt sq
	(best; for if Q takes B ch White plays K to R sq and wins easily: while as for B to K 2 the reply is Q to R 4 ch), etc.
21 Q R to K B sq	21 B to B 3
22 Q to Kt 6	22 Q takes B ch
(Threatening R takes P ch,	(could have done this last move, it makes no difference.)
23 K to R sq	23 Q to R 3
24 Q takes Q	24 P takes Q
25 K R takes B	25 Kt takes R
26 R takes Kt	26 P to B 4
27 Kt to K 6	

and of course wins easily.

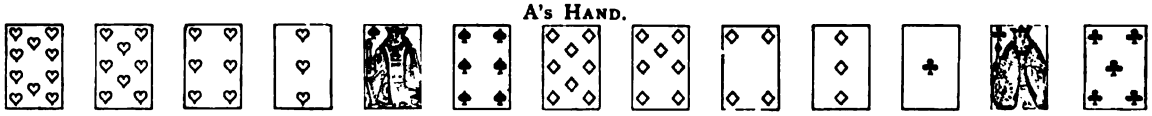
(f) If B takes Kt ch at once, the Queen could retake while in other respects it is only a transposition of moves.

(g) Not seeing the Indian behind the tree, his best course is Q takes B which will leave him as the net result of the *melée* with two Rooks and three minor pieces against Queen, Rook, and Bishop, possessing which forces, he should be able to make a very good fight, notwithstanding that he has an exposed position.

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. 139.

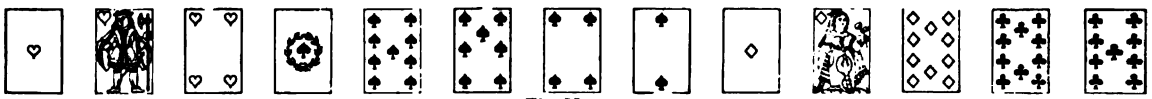
By Mr. F. H. LEWIS.

A's Hand.

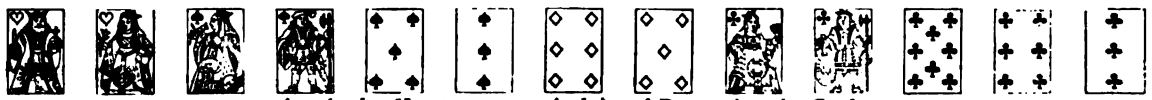


X's Hand.

B's Hand.



Z's Hand.



A to lead. Hearts trump. And A and B to make 5 by Cards.

SOLUTION OF DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. 138.

By Mr. F. H. LEWIS.

1. A leads Spade King; X passes; won by A.
2. A leads Heart 2; X puts Q; B passes; won by X.
3. X leads Heart King (best); won by B.
4. B leads Spade 4; Z puts Spade 8; A S 9; won by X.
5. X leads Spade Ace (best); B trumps; won by B.
6. B leads Diamond 7; A puts Diamond Knave; won by A.
7. A leads Diamond Ace; won by A.
8. A leads Spade King; B discards Heart; won by Z.
9. Z leads Heart; X trumps, B overtrumps; won by B.
10. B leads Club; won by A.
11. A leads Heart; won by Z.
12. Z leads Club; won by B.
13. B leads Club; won by B.

And A and B make three by cards.

If A leads Heart, wishing to force X to play Spade, X and Z make five tricks, thus:—

1. A leads Heart; won by B.
2. B leads Heart; won by X.
3. X leads Diamond 10; won by A.
4. A leads Spade King; X passes; won by A.
5. A leads Spade Queen; won by X.
6. X leads Spade 6; B trumps; won by B.
7. B leads Diamond; won by A.

And in order to get the lead again into B's hand, A must play Club, and so give a trick in that suit to Z.

If A plays Diamond Ace, followed by Diamond Knave, X and Z make again five tricks.

1. A leads Diamond Ace; won by A.
2. A leads Diamond Knave; X puts Diamond 10; won by A.

(a) 3. A leads Spade King; X puts Spade Ace; won by X. And by leading through Diamond Queen, X and Z make 2 Spades.

(a) If A leads Heart and throws the lead back into X's hand X leads small Spade, and as A cannot lead Heart or Club, X again secures two tricks in Spades, upon the return of the suit, by playing through the Diamond Queen.

No one has solved this Problem, notwithstanding that some gentlemen have sent as many as five corrected solutions, and the number of intending solvers has been larger than in any previous Problem. FREDERIC H. LEWIS.

ECCE ITERUM DUMMY!

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

It is an unfortunate coincidence that just as I am informed, I have made a mistake in inverted commas and am a disappointed loser who uses your paper as a medium for unjustifiable insinuation—by the bye. why did you allow it?—I should have to trouble you with another Dummy question: N.B. I was not present when the "reprehensible conduct of Dummy" took place; subsequently my opinion was asked, I gave it, and wrote to you in simple good faith to enquire whether I was right, and can only regret that so much good abuse should have been wasted.

Question No. 2. A cuts for Dummy, X, Dummy's partner, deals and turns up the trump to himself; after Dummy's cards are exposed and A has seen his hand, he claims a misdeal; is this claim valid? whether it is or not, at what time is it too late to make the claim? [We consider that A has no remedy after looking at his Cards. —ED. *W.P.*]

Yet another question (3). A when the Cards are cut for Dummy (B) deals, and turns up the trump to himself. His opponent, as soon as he notices this, and before looking at his Cards claims a misdeal. Is he right in so doing? [Certainly he is.—ED. *W.P.*]

It just occurs to me that I have omitted to ask permission of "Dummy's partner" to describe him as "X," if you think this likely to lead to further misunderstanding or to make your paper a medium for anything dreadful, please run your pen through it. PEMBRIDGE.

WEAK LEADS.—WHIST.

The Cavendish argument is that you lead your strong suit because you hope to establish it. You lead it to prevent your adversary establishing that suit, and if you can do neither the one nor the other you are still to lead your long suit, and you are to do this not only at love all at long Whist, but at 4 all at Short. We have not been convinced by the reasoning, and we have too much respect for the authorities quoted against us to permit their names to be cited as supporting such a preposterous proposition. The first authority is Hoyle, and, unluckily, some one has borrowed our first edition, and, as it is now of some value, we trust it will be returned. We are reduced to quote from the 13th edition without date, but with the author's autograph, the Chas. Jones edition of 1779, and the Piggott edition of 1810. We will take the latter first, and turn to Hoyle's short rules for learners there given (pages 10 and 11):

Always lead from your long suit. Do not lead from Ace Queen. If only one card of any suit, and but two or three small trumps, lead the single card. Always consider your score, and play your hand accordingly.

In Piggott's book, he gives Mr. Paine's maxims, and, amongst others, he gives some on playing for the odd trick, and he begins:—

1. Be cautious of trumping out, notwithstanding you have a good hand; for since you want the odd trick only it would be absurd to play a great game. 2. Never trump out if your partner appears likely to trump a suit, for it is evidently best to let your partner make his trumps. 5. If you hold a single card of any suit, and only two or three small trumps, lead the single card, for it will give you a chance of making a small trump.

We suppose Mr. Paine, the authority in 1810, is sufficiently ancient; yet he says you are not to play for a great game at the score of 9 all, and later on, he says:—

6. Always consider the score, and play your hand accordingly. 7. In a backward game you may often risk one trick in order to make two, but in a forward game you are to be more cautious, unless you have a good probability of getting out. 10. Lead not originally from a suit of which you have Ace and Queen, Ace and Knave, or King and Knave, if you hold another moderate suit.

If our critic is right, then these wretched ancients are wrong, for it is no use always considering the score and playing accordingly, if we are to make no difference in our play whatever the score. Now let us look at the Charles Jones edition, page 5, rule 7:—

If your adversary is six or seven love, and you are to lead, your business in that case is to risk a trick or two in hopes of putting your game upon an equality, therefore admitting that you have Queen or Knave, and one other trump, and no good cards in other suits, play out the Queen or Knave of trumps.

8. If you are four you must play for an odd trick. Be cautious how you trump out.

9. If you are nine, and very strong in trumps, if you observe your partner to have a chance of trumping do not trump out. If your score is one, two, or three, you must play the reverse, and also at five, six, and seven, because you play for more than one point.

Now if this language means anything, it does not mean that you are to play in the same way whatever the score. We suppose the great man has read Hoyle. We are sorry that he has done so to such little purpose. We will give now an authority not quoted by our critic, Major A.:—

4. Page 42. With a bad hand lead that suit which is least likely to injure your partner's hand. It is clear that unless he holds an honour, and can make at least four tricks, the game is gone, as you can make at most one. Do not, therefore, lead from four or five small cards.

Page 56. Before you play sort your hand carefully, look at the trump and consider the score.

Page 57. At the commencement of a game a good hand is entitled to play a bold game, or if the adversaries are considerably advanced in the score, a middling hand should be so played as to strengthen the partner, as it is evident the game must be lost if he is weak also; lead therefore boldly King, Queen, or Knave from three of a suit, or the highest trump you have. If the scores are equal, 2 or 3, all, play more cautiously.

Major A. does not advise playing the same at all scores. Of Major Aubrey, Mr. Clay says he would be very formidable amongst the best players of the present day. He was a player of great original genius, and refused strict adherence to the over careful system to which his companions were slaves. We will now turn to Hoyle himself, page 68, chap. 17:—

"New Cases at Whist, never published till 1760." Case 1. How to play for an odd trick. Suppose you are elder hand, and that you have the Ace, King, and three small trumps, with four small cards of another suit, three small cards of a third suit, and one small card of a fourth suit. Query—How are you to play? Answer—You are to lead the single card, which, if it is won by the last player, it puts him upon playing trumps, or to play to your weak suits, in which case your partner and you gain the tenace.

Need we remind our critic that it is dangerous to cite an authority or to call a witness without knowing what either of them will say. We leave Hoyle, and go to Matthews:—

Keep in your mind that general maxims presuppose the game and hand at their commencement.

The best leads are from sequences of three cards or more. If you have none, lead from your most numerous suit; if strong in trumps, lead rather from one headed by a King than a Queen; but with three or four small trumps, I should prefer to lead from a single card to a long weak suit.

He adds a note :—

This is contrary to the usual practice, especially of the players of the old school.

At the commencement of a game, if you have a good hand, or if your adversaries are considerably advanced in the score, play a bold game; if otherwise, a more cautious one.

In playing for an odd trick, you play a closer game than at other scores. You lead from single cards and force your partner, when at another time you would not be justfied.

When you have a moderate hand yourself, sacrifice it to your partner; he, if he be a good player, will act in the same manner.

It is seldom right to lead from a suit in which you have a Tenace. With Ace, Queen, &c., of one suit, King, Knave, &c., of second, and the third a weak one. The best play is to lead from the latter.

A has four small trumps, Ace, Queen. &c., of the second suit, King, Knave, &c., of a third, and a single card of the fourth. In these sort of hands I am of opinion that the chance of winning by leading the single card is much greater than of losing tricks.

I do not recommend in general leading from single cards, unless very strong in trumps; but with such hands as I have mentioned, I am convinced it may be done occasionally with very great though not certain advantage.

We now turn to the Pope himself. We quote from 10th edition, page 57 :—

If your best suit is only moderately strong, the lead is not profitable, but rather the reverse. If all your suits are weak, the lead is very disadvantageous. The hand, however weak, must hold one suit of four at least, and this, if only headed by by ten, or a nine, should *generally* be chosen. Being unable to injure your adversary, you take the best chance of not assisting him.

What is the meaning of this? You say lead originally from your strongest suit. No exception. Rule positive, and not to be departed from. Yet here you say the 4 suit should *generally* be chosen. Does generally here mean always? because if it does not, the prophet, instead of cursing, is blessing us.

It is said that it is disadvantageous to lead from a weak hand. It is disadvantageous to have a weak hand, we admit. It is worse that the weak hand should be third player. No one doubts if you lead the two from a 5 suit to the 7 with one, two, or three trumps, and no card of re-entry, that the lead is a great disadvantage. What we object to is making such a lead. The lead is disadvantageous because the supposed orthodox lead is absurd. We deny that it is disadvantageous to have the lead with a bad hand, except on the supposition that you have no supporting card, and that you will not lead it.

Page 67. When it is your fate to open a numerically weak suit, your object should be to do as little harm as possible. You cannot expect to win many tricks, so you must do all you can to assist or strengthen your partner by leading high or strengthening cards, for by leading the highest of a suit numerically weak you take the best chance of keeping the strength in your partner's hand, should he happen to hold it.

It will not often happen that you are driven to open a weak suit originally, as one of your suits must contain as many as four cards; but it may so turn out that your four-card suit is composed of very small cards indeed, in which case you might prefer to open a suit containing better cards, though numerically weaker.

Just so, Mr. Critic.

As a rule, when you are in doubt, stick to the general principle and lead from your four-card suit; but if you have such a suit as Queen, Knave, and another, or Knave, Ten, and another, you will generally do less harm by opening that.

It follows that when you lead the highest card in the first round of a suit, and in the next drop a lower one, your partner should infer that you have led from a weak suit. Thus, suppose you lead a Nine, which is called an equivocal card, as it comes from both strong and weak suits, if in the second round your partner can infer that you hold a higher card, he knows you have led from strength. But if in the second round you play the Eight, your partner is equally certain that your first card was the highest of your weak suit.

There is a chapter on playing to the score, but this does not touch the point at issue; and the above is, we think, all that our author has written on the subject, and, on his showing, he stands convicted.

We have now only to deal with Mr. Clay. He points out that observation in a month, if you are a careful player, will be worth more than you can read in a year.

Although rules speak of things to be never done, and others to be always done, remember that no rules are without an exception, and few more open to exceptional cases than rules for Whist!

Carefully study your hand when you take it up, and consider the score of the game, as it is useless to scheme for two or three tricks, if you only require one or to make the odd trick only at the score of one or three, if your adversaries probably hold honours, which will make them the game. Let your first lead be from your strongest suit.

A lead from a Queen or Knave and one small card is not objectionable, if you have an unusually weak hand, or one in which all the other suits are manifestly disadvantageous; your Queen or Knave may be valuable to your partner.

A lead from Queen or Knave, and one small card is not bad when you have no better suit. The lead from a single card is very generally condemned as an original lead.

Our critic gave the views of Professor Pole in his article reprinted in these papers, and it is not necessary for us to dispute those views. In theory the Professor would lead the long weak suit in the hand we gave in our last article. Would he do so in practice? It may be that he would, but we hope it will be when our adversary, and not when our partner.

We repeat Cavendish's statement :—

1. Nor does any player of repute within our experience, with a long weak suit and a weak hand open the game by leading his highest card, whatever the score.

2. The strongest argument in favour of the long suit system is that it has characterised the scientific game ever since it was invented that it has stood the test of the experience of a century and a half, and that it is adopted by all the best authorities on the game.

He then quotes Clay, Hoyle, and Mathews, and he finishes. We have quoted all the eminent English authorities, and they are unanimous. After this array of opinions, it is difficult to conceive how it can have got about that the idea that by leading the long suit less harm is done than by any other lead is abandoned.

We gave our argument last month for what it is worth. We give this month all the great authorities, and we assert that they are unanimous in condemning Cavendish's views. No one of them would in the instance given last month lead the Heart two, except Professor Pole, and it seems now, on more mature reflection, Cavendish himself.

Whist players must judge between our critic and ourselves. There are minor points that arise out of the subject to which we may refer on another occasion.

WHIST MATCH—GROSVENOR CLUB *v.* CHELSEA CLUB.

In our October number of 1875 we recorded two matches played between these clubs. In the first match Grosvenor won nine games, and Chelsea five. In the second Grosvenor won seven and Chelsea six, after a tie. On the 6th ultimo, twenty members met ten from each club, at the spacious Club House of the Grosvenor, in the Buckingham Palace Road The names of the ten Chelsea men were placed in one hat, and the ten Grosvenor names in the other. The Captain of the Grosvenor drew two names from the Chelsea hat, and the Chelsea Captain drew two names from the Grosvenor hat, and the four players thus chosen played at table one, and the other tables were made up in the same way, five in all. They cut for deal and commenced. At each table the winner of the first five games (long Whist) was to be the victor of that match, and the result was to be decided by the number of matches won. The following is the pairing and the result :—

Grosvenor.	No. of Games won.	Chelsea.	No. of Games won.
Longest—Dodd	5	Jones—Smith	2
Graff—Owen	1	Walker—Osborne	5
Russell—Harrison	5	Green—Ford	3
Roy—Hanser	5	Massent—Heyworth	3
Painter—Dawson	2	Ottaway—Ratcliffe	5
	18		18

It will be observed that each side won 18 games and the result was in favour of Grosvenor, by 3 matches to 2. The old cup was in the room duly recording the previous victory, but on this occasion a second cup was provided by subscription amongst the players, so that the Victors could have actual possession of the trophy. On the 14th ult., the return match was played ; the following are the names of the combatants, with the score :—

Grosvenor.	No of Games won.	Chelsea.	No of Games won
Hanser—Painter	5	Green—Jones	4
Horn—Harrison	5	Ford—Ratcliffe	1
Dawson—Graff	5	Heyworth—Walker	3
Roy—Russell	5	Messent—Smith	3
Poole—Dodd	5	Ottoway—Osborne	2
	25		13

The Grosvenor won at every table, and the total games won by them were 25 to 13.

On these, as on the previous occasion, we acted as Referee, and on this, as on the last, not a single dispute or difference arose. That the players were as much interested in the game as other players we can vouch. That tricks were lost by bad play here, as in other places, is certain, but those who lost were not howled at. All played like gentlemen, and bore their good and ill fortune with composure. They neither cried over their defeat nor chuckled at their adversaries' blunders. Although some of the best players were said to be absent, the play on the whole exhibited marked improvement. The long suit system was generally adopted. It is true that wretched man who introduced the peter to the club still lives and continues to signal—indeed he seems as cheery as ever—but

we never saw anyone take any notice of the signal, and we do not sympathize with him in the least. We saw all the regular vagaries. The lead from single cards, the lead from middle cards, the lead of the lowest from 2, nay even our old old friends the lead of the small one from Ace and another, the play of Knave, 2nd hand, having Knave and another only. The play of a 13th card, and perhaps the worst and most general fault all round, a total disregard of their partner's discard, and an inability to appreciate the value of a discard to a partner. As our Peter friend had Cavendish in his pocket we fear he has been introducing another enemy into the camp. It is not necessary here to discuss the advantage to be derived from discarding first your strong suit; that is a nice point in the game, that should come later on when the players are more advanced. At present they should stick to the good old rule, discard first from your weakest suit, so that if B discards a D and A gets the lead he has already been told not to lead D, and he should not do so, unless he has sufficient strength in trumps, and is strong enough to bring in the suit unaided by his partner. The next fault is clearing the adversaries' suit, and lastly, a general impression seems to prevail that a trick made by a trump is of more value than a trick made in a plain suit. We saw enough to convince us that the matches were thoroughly enjoyed by the players, and a considerable number of spectators. The expense is very small, and the pleasure is both innocent, rational, and sufficiently exciting, and the length of time occupied by the proceedings is not too great. We should like some noisy Whist players to attend one of these meetings. Once only did we hear anything appproaching to a noise, and the talker was immediately addressed, "Whist, please." How happy we should be if we could produce a similar effect by such cabalistic words. In our experience we never met more genial hearty Whist players than these. The score was most carefully kept, and we never saw a wrong score claimed in the two nights.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

WITH the exception of Mr. Gilbert's new play, *The Ne'er-do-weel*, produced at the Olympic a few days ago, and of a parody on *Dora*, written by Mr. Burnand for the Strand, such attempts at quasi-novelty as the month can show lie in the direction of Shakspeare and music. Miss Neilson and Miss Cavendish have appeared respectively as Viola and Rosalind, the Adelphi, of all places in the world, has been chosen as the temporary home for opera in English, and the Folly has ambitiously soared from *opera bouffe* to *opera comique*, there being a wide distinction between the two in nature, if not in name. The Royalty has provided still another "*bouffonerie musicale*," an expression which, in the interests of true fun, must not be too literally translated, and Mr. Burnand's parody on *Dora* is also embellished with musical passages, rather, it is to be supposed, to keep up the traditions of the Strand than for any appropriateness they may have to the theme. There have been other changes which, belonging neither to novelty or even quasi-novelty, must be classed as reproductions. Thus Mr. Hare has speedily replaced the short-lived *Victims* by *New Men and Old Acres*, the Queen's has changed its programme from *Fatherland* to *Twixt Axe and Crown*, and from that to *The Lancashire Lass*; and *Sardanapalus*, has been succeeded at the Duke's by *Mammon*, which in a desperate attempt to secure for it a special sort of patronage, has been re-christened a "commercial" comedy-drama. At the Vaudeville there has been much festivity in connection with what was called the thousandth *night* of *Our Boys*, an event which was celebrated on the 19th February. It may be expecting too much perhaps to ask for strict accuracy in numbers from theatrical managers, but it is difficult to understand how a play which was produced on the 16th January, 1875, can have reached its thousandth night on the 19th of February, 1878, the highest possible number of nights in a year being 311. It is not improbable that morning performances have been thrown in as make-weight. Perhaps the most noticeable novelty of the month was the amateur pantomime at the Gaiety, which was the means of bringing in a large addition to the exchequer of the Theatrical Fund. The performance is said to have been very good, a statement which, considering how very dull is the pantomime of professionals, becomes perfectly startling when made in connection with amateurs. No doubt the presence of "twenty ladies from the Alhambra" (thus advertised) would assist the amateurs in ridding themselves of that modesty and shyness with which they are, as a body, usually afflicted.

We have no wish to generalise about Shakespeare and the estimation he is held in by the age we live in, for the double reason that generalisation is, as a rule, the hasty judgment of an impulsive nature, and that the theatrical position of Shakespeare changes so quickly that a year or two, or three years, may contradict the opinion of to-day. But it is safe to say that there is at the present time no Shakespearian theatre, with a trained body of performers, specially adapted for the delivery of blank verse. When Mr. Phelps and Mr. Charles Kean were in power at Sadler's Wells and the Princesses, they did not seek to shine as solitary "stars," but surrounded themselves with an able staff of assistants, and at the Haymarket in those days it was possible to witness a fair all-round presentation of Shakesperian comedy. Now that Mr. Kean is dead, Mr. Phelps retired from management, and the Haymarket Company effete and broken up, we have had to be content with the spectacular performances at Drury Lane, and such casual representations as are put forward by managers possessing for a season the services of an ambitious and popular actor or actress. Mr. Irving has appeared with more or less credit as Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello, and Richard III.; but the general representation of each of

these plays at the Lyceum was below mediocrity, and if it has been found expedient at this theatre to abandon Shakspeare for a time, the fault is not with the public, which has shown itself eager to support Mr. Irving's efforts. Mr. Phelps is occasionally seen at morning performances, and now and then a foreign actor is introduced as Othello; but Mr. Phelps is very old, and the supply of foreign actors with a taste for Shakspeare is limited, and as there is, so far as we know, no new native candidate in the field for Shaksperian tragedy, the prospect for the immediate future is very unpromising. And if this is the case as regards Hamlet, Othello, and the rest, how is it with Rosalind, Viola, Juliet, Beatrice, Imogen, or Lady Macbeth? Discarding, as unworthy of notice, the nonentities who flutter for an afternoon as Juliet before a select circle of friends, the list of actresses who have appeared of late in these characters with anything like favour is confined to Mrs. Kendal, Miss Neilson, Miss Cavendish, Miss Wallis, and Miss Ward. From these the last two may be eliminated, as being little known to London playgoers, and Mrs. Kendal, as having temporarily retired from the lists; and can any one of the five be considered a worthy rival to Mrs. Vezin, who is the most recent Shaksperian actress of established fame, and who appeared not so long ago as Viola and Rosalind at the Haymarket? Her place at that establishment is now held by Miss Neilson, who, if good looks were the test of merit would distance all rivals, but whose abilities fall short of the requisite standard for the performance of Shakspearian heroines. She improves with time, and evidently studies hard; but if she lives for a century she will never possess that subtle instinct of interpretation which distinguishes her who is born a Shakspearian actress from her who is made one. Her best performance is Juliet, to which she is fitted in face and manner but her Viola is not calculated to make the audience forget the slight dullness which belongs, if we may dare to say so, to *Twelfth Night*. She does not strike us as making Viola a hoyden, as some critics have stated, but, on the contrary, as treating her from a tame and ultra-subdued point of view. The general performance of the play shows marked signs of deterioration, not atoned for by the pantomimic business of Sir Andrew and Sir Toby. Mr. Howe is not so good a Malvolio as Mr. Chippendale, but he was a better Orsino than Mr. Kyrle is now. Mr. Buckstone showed no great subtlety in his day as Sir Andrew, but his conception was at least more intelligible than is that of Mr. Harcourt. The best feature of the present revival is the Sir Toby of Mr. Everill, who is emphatic without exaggeration, and distinct without noise The representation of *As You Like It* at the St. James's is equally weak, though the interest of the play, like that of *Hamlet*, is so absorbing that the worst acting will not destroy its charm. Miss Cavendish is less satisfactory as Rosalind than Mrs. Kendal, who herself was accused of being artificial and unsympathetic. Miss Cavendish is not, perhaps, unsympathetic, though she may be artificial, and in addition speaks too quickly, and without sufficient distinctness, and delivers her lines without due regard to the rhythm of the verse, the same drawbacks being apparent in her Beatrice. In spite of all this it is wise to be thankful for small mercies, and although Miss Neilson and Miss Cavendish may suffer by comparison with even the most recent past, their efforts are at least as good as any we can get at present.

Mr. Gilbert has written for the Olympic a new and original, and it may be added, a most extraordinary play, called *The Ne'er-do-weel*. Two-thirds of the first act interest us greatly; the characters, if not altogether new, are well introduced, the dialogue between the hero and his friend is such as few men living could write equally well, and the acting of Mr. Neville is powerful. But before the end of the first act is reached the play begins to suffer from a sort of softening of the brain, which increases in severity during the progress of the second act, until paralysis and chaos supervene in the third. The man who is, perhaps, the foremost dramatist of the day, the man whose work has been characterized by a remarkably keen and incisive wit, has, in two scenes of *The Ne'er-do-weel*, the burglary and magistrate scenes, inflicted on his audience such inane imbecilities, such childish nonsense in the way of dialogue, as has never been experieneed in the dullest of *bouffoneries musicales*. It is said of certain eminent jockeys that, though they may succeed as a rule, they have never been able to win a Derby. So of Mr. Gilbert his admirers will perhaps be forced to acknowledge that, though his reputation is, generally speaking, well founded, he cannot construct a successful play of modern life. To continue our turf metaphor, it may be said that *The Ne'er-do-weel* starts well, but presently begins to sheer all over the course, and ends by jumping the rails. The story treats of the loves of two young ladies, for it is an unpleasant peculiarity of this play, that the usual conditions of love-making are reversed by the ladies doing the active part. Jessie O'Hara thus tells Gerald Seton that she loves him, but he declines her, after soothing her by the title of "little woman," a term which one might think would sound offensive to a girl from a man who had just refused her. Gerald, who has a sneaking fondness for Jessie is constrained to refuse her, as, he and his father being on the brink of ruin, it is necessary he should make up to his rich cousin, Maud Callender, who, it is easily to be seen, regards him only as a brother, and is suffering from a secret sorrow, not unconnected with a ruined gentleman. Meanwhile, the ne'er-do-weel turns up, and turns out to be a school friend of Gerald, who thereupon asks him to be his father's secretary. All this is good enough, but when, as everybody expected, the act-drop fell upon a recognition between the heiress and the ruined ne'er-do-weel, a feeling of disappointment was felt on the first night at this slightly stale incident, it being obvious that we were to witness a not unfamiliar struggle between the hero's love for his mistress, and his gratitude towards the friend, who ought to have her money. The second act begins in unnatural sentiment and ends in wild and unmeaning farce. Geoffry, the ne'er-do-weel, first abandons, then returns to his love, being induced towards the latter course by the open declaration of the young lady, which naturally cancels his obligations to his friend, and to his friend's father who has just asked him to make love on behalf of the son. At this point of the play, Mr. Gilbert appears to have

abandoned comedy and drama, and resorted to that species of burlesque of which *Engaged* is a specimen. We candidly confess that we are totally unable to fathom the meaning of the scenes between the present and former secretaries, and between the latter and the old sea-captain. It is sufficient to say that in the last five minutes the two young ladies succeed by dint of much courtship, in securing their respective loves, and that thus ends a play which in construction and partially in its story is totally unworthy of the author. The construction is not only weak, it is unintelligible, and perhaps its weakest point is the introduction of a weak and nerveless villain, whose actions do not influence the story in the smallest degree, who comes on the stage for the sole purpose of being abused or made a butt of. Nor is the story or plot of a pleasing order. We have noticed the reversing of the usual practice of love-making; and, in addition, it may be said that the whole motive of the second act is the struggle for the money of the heiress on the part of old Mr. Seton. The acting was, on the whole, satisfactory, and in one scene between Mr. Neville and Mr. Forbes Robertson very good. It is noticeable that the expression "For God's sake," which has in the last year or two become extremely popular with dramatists, is used no less than three times in *The Ne'er-do-Weel.* When uttered *once* in a play, with discretion, with good emphasis, and at the right moment, this strong adjuration will often succeed in bringing down the house; but when an author puts it where it should not be at all, in the mouth of a young lady, twice within half an hour, it becomes not only offensive, but an obvious endeavour to make up for the weakness of the context.

A Lancashire Lass has been revived at the Queen's Theatre, where the bold and vigorous policy sketched out some months ago is already abandoned, and matters allowed to settle in the old groove of short runs and constant revivals. The parody on *Diplomacy*, written by Mr. Burnand for the Strand, under the title of *Dora, or Diplunacy* is more lively and successful in its object than any recent burlesque at this theatre. The introduction of music seems out of place in this, as it was in *A Night of Terror*, for genuine farce and real fun require no music to help them into favour. Miss Venne and Mr. Penley imitate the peculiarities of Mrs. Bancroft and Mr. Cecil with much faithfulness; and in a lesser degree M. Marius and Miss Sanger represent the manner and bearing of Mr. Bancroft and Mrs. Kendal. The management of the Folly have somewhat rashly abandoned the line of business which has succeeded at that establishment, and by the production of *Les Cloches de Corneville*, which is an opera comique with a slight serious interest, similar, in fact, in story to *Fra Diavolo*, and operas of that class, they are likely to estrange those of their patrons to whom such pieces as *Blue Beard* are the "best things out." Music, through no fault of its own, is when allied to the drama, considered in many quarters to result in an entertainment which is best carried on by persons who can hardly sing in tune, but know by heart all the gestures and antics that made the fame of Schneider, and who should be surrounded by an array of painted faces and redundant shapes, the whole affair being conducted in a spirit of impudent vulgarity. Disappointment therefore was doubtless felt at the Folly when, in the first night of *Les Cloches de Corneville*, it was discovered that there was no horse play for the actors, little Schneider business for the actresses, but in place a fair amount of music which required on the behalf of its exponents some technical knowledge of the art. It was perhaps on this account that Miss Munroe failed to exercise much influence over the audience, and that Miss Cameron was universally popular. It is also pleasant to notice that even in a Folly audience the true interest of dramatic appreciation is not lost, or else Mr. Shiel Barry would not have aroused it to enthusiasm in the short scene when, as the *Telegraph* critic well expresses it, "having lost his voice, he acted with his face." No short effort of the kind has been better done for years, and if the actor could only rid himself of his Irish accent (not often a disadvantage) he might make a fresh start as a new Robson. As regards *Les Cloches de Corneville*, we fear that in spite of Mr. Barry's acting, Miss Cameron's singing, and its pretty music, it is not suited to the cigarette-choked atmosphere of the Folly.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

W. McArthur.—Thanks for Problems. That in three moves can be solved by $\frac{\text{R to Kt 5}}{\text{K moves}}$ 2 B ch and 3 P becomes a Kt and mates.

C. Callander, J. Tarrant, H. E. Kidson, G. Barlow, and D. W. Clark. Problems received with thanks.

F. L. A.—The Secretary of the North London Chess Club is Mr. F. E. Lamb, 21, Albion Road, Dalston.

W. B. H. (Regent's Park).—The so-called Chess Automaton is now at the Aquarium, New York. See the "Chess World."

G. H. M. (Dudley), W. McA., (Chichester,) and Von. Z., (Manchester), will please accept our best thanks for reports of matches.

W. Pugh (Lower Clapton).—We have not had time to refer to our notes of the Problem, the solution of which you require, but we will endeavour to oblige you next month.

WHIST.

G. H. B.—What is the penalty for an exposed card at Whist? *Ans.* The exposed card can be called until it is played.

SIXTY-SIX.

J. P. (Newcastle)—*1st case.* A closes before B has taken a trick, and only counts 50. B counts 35 made after A had closed. How many is B entitled to score? *2nd case.* A closes before B has taken a trick, and counts 66 first, B is 35 made after A had closed. How many is A entitled to score? I said in the 1st case 3, and in the 2nd case 1. Was this right?—*Ans.* Quite right.

THE LATE JOHN COCHRANE.

[The Westminster Papers, April 1878.

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The Westminster Papers.

1st APRIL, 1878.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

THERE is a strange mixture of sadness and festivity in the record of metropolitan Chess for the past month. The rudest month in the calendar—boon companion of rude Boreas—brought with its earliest days an announcement of the death of John Cochrane, the oldest amateur of the game in England, and among the students of Chess literature the most popular player that ever appeared in the Chess arena, and its mid-age was marked by the death of another veteran amateur, the Earl of Ravensworth. There followed the annual banquet at the city of London Chess Club, and the close of the month is to be signalized by another banquet, at which Mr. C. Godfrey Gumpel entertains a large number of eminent Chess-players, including M. Camille Morel, Honorary Secretary of the Paris Congress, and M. Rosenthal, the Chess champion of France. The reader will find these events more fully set forth in separate articles, or in the record of metropolitan Chess that appears upon another page.

The problem composer of our time, possessed of the spirit of emulation, will have adequate opportunities for its exercise in the course of the present year. Besides the Lowenthal tourney conducted by ourselves, the conditions of which were published in our number for February last, we have this month to announce one organised by the British Chess Problem Association, and another to be conducted by the *Huddersfield College Magazine*, under the direction of Mr. Watkinson. There is yet another, which is referred to hereafter, in connection with the Paris International Congress, to be held next June. The tourney of the British Problem Association is, as may be inferred from the title of the society, open only to competitors of British birth. This society was formed for the purpose of attempting to unite the problem composers of this country on the subject of a problem code that in future competitions should furnish a safe guide to competitors in preparing their work and to judges in making their awards. It was thought undesirable—and rightly so in our opinion—to invite the co-operation of other nationalities until something had been accomplished in the direction of the end in view. Until we are agreed among ourselves it can serve no useful purpose to ask other people to "agree" with us. The task the committee of the British Problem Association have set themselves is undoubtedly an arduous one, but should success attend their efforts a great stride will have been made towards the settlement of a universal code for the construction and criticism of Chess problems. The following are the conditions of the tourney:—

All problems sent in must be original and hitherto unpublished.

The publication of a problem in any paper (*with the name of composer attached*) previous to the judge's awards will cause such position *and set* to be disqualified.

One set only, consisting of three problems, in from two to four moves, to be sent in by each competitor. A single problem may be sent (to compete for "single problem" prizes), but not in *addition to a set*. *Joint compositions* will be disqualified.

No competitor shall receive more than one prize. If, apart from this rule, he should be entitled to more the fact will be publicly stated.

All competing sets must reach the Secretary, J. P. Taylor, 63, Malvern Road, Dalston, London, by April 30, 1878, and one month later from competitors residing abroad, and each problem must have the composer's motto attached.

A copy of each problem will be made, and forwarded to the judges, and, if pronounced sound, will soon after be printed in one of the following periodicals:—*The Illustrated London News*, *Land and Water*, *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, *The Chess Players' Chronicle*, *The Huddersfield College Magazine*, *The English Mechanic*, *Glasgow Evening News*, and *Brief*.

All the problems will be published in THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

The scale by which the judges, Messrs. J. W. Abbott, H. J. C. Andrews, and W. T. Pierce, have decided to estimate the merits of competing problems is as follows:—Beauty, 15; Novelty, 10; Difficulty, 10; Construction, 10; Variety, 5—Total, 50.

The prizes offered are—For best set, including press prize, £5; for second set, £2; for third set, Miles' "Chess Gems" (presented by the Vice-President, H. J. C. Andrews, Esq.); for best 4 mover, 3 mover, and 2 mover, £2 each.

Various minor prizes for second best 4 mover, 3 mover, and 2 mover will also be given and announced as soon as possible.

The code appended will be found tolerably comprehensive, but, except as regards the present tourney, it is not intended to be final, and the committee, we do not doubt, will be glad to receive communications upon the subject from any one interested in the construction, solving or critical examination of problems.

Position and pieces employed.—The primary position in a regular problem must be such as would be possible in actual play, and it must contain no more pieces and pawns than are on the board at the commencement of an ordinary game.

Promotion of Pawns.—A Pawn, on arriving at the eighth square must be promoted, as is usual in play, the use of dummy Pawns being prohibited.

Castling.—Castling is not permissible, because the solver has generally no means of knowing whether the K or R has previously moved.

Economy of Force.—This principle applies, not only to the number of White and Black pieces employed, but also to the mating power brought finally into action, and to the purity of the mates themselves. It is generally undesirable to use powerful pieces for petty purposes. A composer's aim should rather be to attain the maximum of efficiency with the minimum of force. Occasions will nevertheless arise when an author's design can be more fully developed, or accurately finished, by the substitution, especially on the defensive side, of a superior piece for one of inferior calibre. The introduction of extra force on White's side to cure serious duals is also allowable, when the end is unattainable by other means. Superior, but otherwise inactive, White pieces should not be set to do the work of an equal number of Pawns. Difficulty thus obtained or enhanced is illegitimate, and lowers the value of a problem.

Accuracy.—A choice of play on White's first move disqualifies the problem, and the *set* containing it. Companion positions of the same set will not, however, be therefore debarred from competing for "single problem" prizes.

Impossibility of solution will incur similar penalties.

Duals.—Duals in general must be considered more or less blemishes, and are proportionately worse as they approach the root of the main idea. In two-movers they are especially blamable; particularly in variations admitting of mates by two or more pieces. In all cases these double *coups* will be considered from the following standpoints:—1st. Their nature and extent. 2nd. The possibility of removing them without injury to the design.

Variety.—Variations should spring spontaneously from the main theme, or be introduced to render a problem sound in all its variations.

With this announcement of its first tourney, and the problem code, the British Problem Association is fairly under weigh, and we heartily wish it *bon voyage*.

Before referring to the conditions of the new *Huddersfield Magazine* tourney, it may be as well to record the close of the last one, with the award of the prizes by the judge, Mr. H. J. C. Andrews, which is as follows:—1st Prize, £2 10s., J. H. Finlinson; 2nd Prize, £1 5s., G. J. Slater; 3rd Prize, Pierce's "English Chess Problems," W. Coates. The two prizes for the best single problems have been awarded to G. J. Slater and F. W. Martindale for the best in four moves; to J. H. Finlinson for the best in three moves; and to W. A. Shinkman for the best in two moves. Honourable mention is conferred upon Messrs. McArthur, W. T. Pierce, and W. S. Pavitt, the prize winners also receiving the same praise for their separate problems. Fifteen competitors engaged in the competition, and among them them were representatives of New York, Michigan and Montreal. For the new competition, announced by the *Huddersfield College Magazine*, six prizes are provided. The first, a silver cup, value £5, given by Mr. Medley, from the Lowenthal Fund, second, £3 3s.; third, a set of Staunton Chessmen and leather board, value £2 2s., and there are also special prizes for the best single problems in two, three and four moves respectively. The competition is open to all nations, each competitor to contribute three original problems in from two to four moves, and they are to be sent to Mr. Watkinson, on or before the 1st September, 1878, from composers resident in the United Kingdom, and before the 1st December following, from composers resident abroad. Mr. Andrews will again officiate as judge, and he has drawn up a code which is in practical agreement with that promulgated by the British Chess Problem Association as set forth above.

While on the subject of problem tournies we desire to supplement the conditions of the Lowenthal tourney by an explanatory clause. In the conditions published in our February number, it is stated that the problems

competing for the single position prizes, "may form part of the sets of three, or may be sent in separately at the option of the competitor." To this we desire to add that, in cases where a competitor contributes a single problem in addition to a set of three, none of the positions comprised in the set will be considered as competing for a single problem prize. The object we have in view is simply this, that no competitor shall be given a double chance of securing any one prize, and it is one that we believe will be approved by the Chess community.

There have been three club matches in the country during the past month. The Leeds and Bradford players met on the 9th ultimo at Leuchter's Restaurant in Bradford, ten players a side, and Leeds was victorious with a score of eleven to seven and one drawn game. On the 16th, the Chess players connected with the Liberal Club, Cleckheaton, played a match against the Dewsbury Working Mens Chess Club, when the latter achieved a signal victory, scoring eighteen to the adversaries' three, and three games drawn. The *Cleckheaton Journal* to which we are indebted for an account of this match, states that the team representing that town were short of some of their best players, and that they hope to give a better account of themselves in the return match, which was fixed for the 23rd ultimo. On the same day a return match was played between Liverpool and Manchester in the rooms of the Manchester Chess club, resulting in a victory for Liverpool.

We append here the names of the players in these several matches with their respective scores :—

Bradford.	Won	Lost	Drawn	Leeds.	Won	Lost	Drawn
Lewis	0	1	1	Stoke	1	0	1
Petty	1	0	0	Bennett	0	1	0
Onions	1	1	0	Bilbrough	1	1	0
Knapton	1	1	0	Gaunt	1	1	0
Mielziner	2	0	0	Carter	0	2	0
North	1	1	0	Craven	1	1	0
Glaser	0	2	0	Trickett	2	0	0
Muller	1	1	0	R. Taylor	1	1	0
Critchley	0	2	0	M. Wright	2	0	0
Berg	0	2	0	Busby	2	0	0
Total	7	11	1	Total	11	7	1

Dewsbury.	Won	Lost	Drawn	Cleckheaton.	Won	Lost	Drawn
Woodhead	2	0	1	Growther	0	2	1
Rhodes	1	1	0	Gommersall	1	1	1
Neville	3	0	0	Haigh	0	3	0
Knowles	3	0	0	Goldthorpe	0	3	0
Gledhill	3	0	0	H. Robinson	0	3	0
Podmore	2	0	1	Comins	0	2	1
White	1	2	0	E. Robinson	2	1	0
McGuire	3	0	0	Tetley	0	3	0
Total	18	3	3	Total	3	18	3

Manchester.	Won	Lost	Drawn
Simon	1	1	0
Steinkühler	1	0	0
H. Jones	1	0	0
Golden	1	1	0
W. Jones	0	2	0
E. H. Woods	0	1	0
Boyer	1	1	0
Von Zabern	0	0	2
Gazaele	0	1	0
Fish	1	1	0
Total	6	8	2

Liverpool.	Won	Lost	Drawn
Allaine	1	1	0
Burn	0	1	0
Ferguson	0	1	0
Dufresne	1	1	0
Rutherford	2	0	0
Schull	1	0	0
J. Soul	1	1	0
C. Soul	0	0	2
Wellington	1	0	0
"Nemo"	1	1	0
	8	6	2

From the *Glasgow Herald* we learn that a match between the Queen's Park Chess Club and the Athenæum as played on the 9th ultimo, resulting in a victory for the latter, who scored $7\frac{1}{2}$ to the adversaries' $6\frac{1}{2}$. The tries in the tourney for the trophy presented by Mr. Macfarlane to the Glasgow Chess Club appear to be very w in number, and the *Glasgow Herald* suggests that the competition should be thrown open to all the Glasgow ayers. Every one will agree with the *Herald* that such a course would more effectually promote the game, than contest in which only three or four players take part.

We have received a letter from Mr. Crake, of Hull, in reference to the remarks upon the "Fatal Problem," m the *Amateur World* that appeared in our last issue. We venture to think that "strictures" is a very harsh

term to apply to our comments upon this curiosity of Problem construction. There were certainly none intended, and Mr. Crake should have been satisfied with a chuckle over the fact that we were ourselves snared in the same net, as Mr. Four-mover's friend. It appears that, after all, the solution of the problem is not effected by promoting a White Pawn to Kingly rank, but by converting a White Pawn into a Black Bishop, from the contemplation of which process we derive the moral lesson, trite but doubtlessly true, that promotion is sometimes to be gained by changing sides. If Mr. Crake desires us to be serious we have great pleasure in assuring him that we had no intention of being censorious, but were and are inclined to congratulate him upon the authorship of a right pleasante and merrie conceit.

Although the *Derbyshire Advertiser* reproaches us with setting up ninepins for the purpose of knocking them down—what other object can there be in setting up ninepins, by the by?—it contains one of the liveliest and most entertaining Chess columns of our time. The editor is right in doubting the accuracy of his proposed solution of the sui-mate dedicated by Conrad Bayer to Jaenisch and published in the "WESTMINSTER PAPERS" for May 1872. The true solution is as follows:—

1 B to K 5	1 P to K 3	5 B to K R 2	5 P to K 4
2 P to B 7	2 P to K R 4	6 B to K Kt 4	6 P to K 5
3 P to B 8 (or B)	3 P to R 5	7 B to B 3	7 P takes B
4 Kt to K sq	4 P to R 6	8 Q to K Kt 2	8 P takes Q mate

The *Chess Players' Chronicle* has passed into the hands of Mr. W. W. Morgan, 67 Barbican, whose well known energy and enterprise should and will, we hope, ensure the permanent success of this excellent Chess periodical.

La Strategie this month contains a letter from M. Camille Morel, the honorary Secretary of the proposed Paris Congress, announcing that the tourneys in connection with the meeting will commence on the 15th of June next. The arrangements are as yet incomplete, but from M. Morel's letter and a note appended we learn that the entries for the first class International tourney must be made, and the competitors' entrance fees, one hundred francs each, must be paid on or before the 1st of June next; that the tourney shall be a pool with a time limit of two hours for thirty moves, and each competitor will be required to play at least four games in each week. The first prize will be an object of art, presented by the French Government, not less in value than 6,000 francs, the second 2,000 francs, and two other prizes will be provided, the respective amounts of which have not yet been fixed. There will be several other tourneys, and a problem tourney as well, the conditions of which will be announced at an early date. A room in the Exhibition building will be set apart for the players, and visitors will thus be enabled to inspect the wonders of the Palace of Industry, and witness the play in the tourneys without trouble or inconvenience. The following are the names of the Committee of the Congress:—President, General the Marquis d'Andigné, Senator; Vice-Presidents, MM. P. Bethmont, and General Fournier; Treasurer, M. L. Goldsmith; Secretary, M. Camille Morel; Committee, MM. Delsol, Baron Boissy d'Anglas, and Vicomte de Bornier. Communications respecting the congress should be addressed to M. Camille Morel, 38 Rue Laborde, Paris.

La France Illustrée is welcomed among our exchanges. The Chess article is edited by M. Pradignat, and the copies at hand contain some capital problems.

We heartily regret to learn that the Café International, so long the head-quarters of Chess in New York, closed its doors on the 2nd ultimo. It was hoped that the removal of the establishment from the Bowery to a more central situation in Broadway would have largely increased the attendance of visitors, and so far as the Chess room was concerned, we believe that anticipation was fully realized. In December last, the writer saw nearly sixty Chess players congregated there, most of them engaged with boards, and including the best known players in the States. Captain MacKenzie has opened a new Chess room in fourteenth street, corner of Union Square, a capital situation for the "up-town" residents, and we hope to hear that his enterprise has proved successful. In the meantime he has left the Empire city on a visit to Buffalo and Cleveland. We shall hope to see Captain MacKenzie and Mr. Mason in London in the course of next month *en route* for Paris to take part in the International tourney.

We have received a neat little pamphlet from the Manhattan Chess Club, containing the constitution and laws of that Association. The Manhattan Chess Club meets at the Café Logeling, 49, Bowery, and from its situation

is a favourite resort of the Brooklyn Chess-players engaged in business in New York. The club numbers nearly forty members, among them with honorary distinction being the name of the veteran Frederick Perrin.

Two new Chess columns have appeared in the States, the *Holyoake Transcript*, edited by Mr. Carpenter and Mr. R. H. Seymour, and the *Winsted News*, edited by Mr. Kane. The problems in the *Transcript* are edited by Mr. Carpenter, who, it is quite unnecessary to say, is the right man in the right place. We note also with pleasure that Mr. Hanshew's column in the *Frederick* (Maryland) *Times* has been revived.

The Chess Record (Philadelphia) has resumed the publication of Chess under the direction of Mr. Reichelm. The *Hartford Times*, in addition to the usual pleasant gossip, is publishing, with illustrative diagrams, the games in the correspondence tourney between America and England.

From the city of Mexico we have the first two numbers of *La Cronica de Ajedrez*, edited by Senor Andres C. Vasquez. We promise ourselves the pleasure of quoting next month from this bright little Chess journal a game between two ladies and a problem *in memoriam* of the late Mr. Portilla, who during his residence in London was a valued contributor to the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

The *Athenæum* and *Daily News* of Madras is a new recruit in the field of Chess journalism. Each weekly column contains several diagrams of problems, some of them by native players and all of more than ordinary merit. Will the editor of the *Athenæum* kindly note that in the problem from the WESTMINSTER PAPERS (No. 943) referred to in his notice to a correspondent the Black Pawn at K B square should be a Black Bishop.

Chess automata from the days of Maria Theresa downwards have excited the amazement of potentates, princes, and other unwise personages. To the eye of common sense they bore the outward signs of an interior man, but credulity refused to accept such an obvious and therefore unsatisfactory explanation of what it persisted in holding to be a mystery. However, no one now denies that Wolfgang de Kempelen's world famous automaton was directed by a person inside, and we take leave to place all later Chess playing machines in the same category. So considered, there is nothing in them worthy of notice, and the only wonder is, that for more than a hundred years there have never been wanting persons who have looked upon them as wonderful. Now it is evident that a lay figure constructed with such *bona fide* skill as that, while guided by an outward will only, it should be able to play at Chess, would be a different affair altogether. This want is apparently claimable by a gentleman not unknown in Chess circles, and noted in the mechanical world for various ingenious inventions. He conceived the idea of constructing a genuine automaton, if we may call it so, for he himself refuses to give it that name; perhaps his scruples will be met by calling the article a machine-figure. He has, as he informs us, been working at the notion for the last seven years, there being various difficulties to surmount, but his efforts have been at last rewarded with success, and a creature has been produced whose first public appearance will be at the Paris Exhibition. Having been invited to a private view, we willingly accepted the offer, and on arriving at the inventor's house, were shewn into a room where sat a being, one of whose feet suggested alarming ideas, but he had, nevertheless, not a very unkindly expression of countenance. Monsieur Mephisto, such we were informed was the name, is a slim personage, with well shaped hands, and his one human foot was also of a neat proportion. Before him was an ordinary Chess table, and his attitude as he sat upon a cushion was perfectly natural. He might have a *penchant* for winning souls by means of his Chess skill, but seemed in a general way an honest fellow enough, and one not likely to be guilty of any trick or subterfuge. We had a couple of games with him, and found ourselves obliged to come to the conclusion that he did all his own work in making the various moves. His anatomy was fully equal to every form of manipulation that the various exigencies of the game might require, there seemed no doubt about that. He could reach to any piece, and convey it to any square, and the bold sweep of his arm when making a long lateral move was very admirable. The Chessmen, unlike those used by the Crystal Palace automaton, were of various sizes, and the only part of the affair that suggested anything bnormal was the chessboard. It was of a large club size, and as before implied, was fitted into ordinary table, but each square possessed a spike, and on to this Monsieur Mephisto fitted his eces when placing them anywhere. We, as his opponent, had to do the same, but it was also our office, in cordance with instructions received, to press the piece firmly down on to the spike both of the square originally ccupied, and of that whereon the piece was to be placed. These squares, on being thus pressed, went down like pianoforte key, though only slightly, and then came up level again. The object of this performance we did not ightly understand, but concluded that in some way it operated upon interior works. At any rate when we did not ress sufficiently, our unearthly opponent made no move in reply. We imagine this very curious creation will

cause some sensation at the Paris Exhibition. Mechanicians will perhaps regard it with even more interest than the ordinary public. Those of the latter who have seen other Chess automata may look upon this one as less agile. It is certainly slower in its movements, a fact not to be wondered at if, as we really believe, it is not a counterfeit. We may observe in conclusion that Monsieur Mephisto won a game of M. Delannoy and another of Mr. Potter. These gentlemen no doubt blundered rather absurdly; but excuses would be impotent. They should have taken more care when contending against such a subtle foe.

While going to press last month we received a letter from Mr. F. E. Lamb, of 21 Albion Road, Dalston, wherein he replied to certain critical comments of ours upon the apparent aversion from publicity displayed by the Secretary of the North London Chess Club, which official position is, as it appears, occupied by our correspondent. This communication, as being couched in good-natured and humourous terms, we should like to transcribe, but space in its usual spirit of domineering tyranny forbids us that pleasure. Mr. Lamb attributes the reticence from which our pages have suffered to the modesty of the North London Club, and of himself as its representative, but announces its intention no longer to hide what he bashfully designates as its "feeble light" under a bushel. Modesty is an excellent and very rare quality in Chess-players. Energy is also a praiseworthy feature in secretaries. Mr. Lamb, having proved himself to be a model exemplar of the one virtue, is now going to show that he is not deficient in the other. By way of combining both he sent us the items of three matches played and lost by his club, but the North London does not always march to defeat, and we shall hope to be often favoured with accounts of its victories.

These are the days when the strongholds of male humanity are threatened by hosts of beardless invaders. Much may be said, and for that matter a great deal is most hotly said, for and against the privileges of man being shared with the causes of his woes. It does not appear, however, that the admission of ladies into the Chess world need be in any sense a burning question. If they like to be mated, and they very often do, we cannot conceive of any Chess-player being so hard-hearted as to deny them that pleasure. Under these circumstances we are able to announce without any feeling of reluctance that a Chess Club for ladies and gentlemen has been formed at the Ladies College, Little Queen Street, Holborn, the Principal of which establishment is Miss Florence Down. We have before us a communication from that lady, containing the above-mentioned information, and she proceeds to state that a tournament, consisting of four ladies and eight gentlemen, is now in progress at the College. The names of the entrants are Mrs. Down, Mrs. Jamieson, two Misses Down, Mr. Manning, Mr. H. F. Down, two Messrs. Hearne, two Messrs. Richardson, Messrs. M. and L. Down. It will be noticed that the name of the well-known Chess-playing family predominates rather much, but this is a feature not to be surprised at in what may turn out to be a nursery of skilful lady players. We hear from other sources that Miss Florence Down was the handicapper in the tournament, and that she most wisely weighted the masculine combatants with such odds as make it very unlikely that any of them will cut a very distinguished figure in the final score. The improbability of their gaining any prizes will be inferred from the fact that Messrs. H. F. Down and Manning, both of them good players, have succumbed to the prowess of Miss Florence Down herself. We hope, and confidently expect, that lady handicappers will in all future tourneys of a similar character imitate their prototype's excellent example. It is scarcely necessary for us to add that the College Chess Club has our very best wishes.

On Friday, the 22nd ult., a meeting took place at Bartholomew House, E.C., having for its object the formation of a City and Suburban Chess Association, to be composed of members of the various local metropolitan clubs. There were present Mr. Gastineau (Chairman), Mr. Wilson, Secretary of the Excelsior, Mr. Rendell, Secretary of the Kentish Town, Mr. Barber, Secretary of the Shaftesbury, Mr. Thompson, Secretary of the Athenæum, Mr. Piper, Secretary of the Greenwich, and Mr. Schooling, Secretary of the Ibis Chess Clubs. This was, in its nature, a Secretarial meeting, but there were also present Messrs. Potter, and A. B. Baxter, they having been invited to attend as gentlemen known to be interested in the local metropolitan Chess clubs. After some preliminary discussion resolutions were passed whereby it was agreed to establish an association under the above-named title, at an annual subscription for each member of 1s. per annum. Messrs. Wilson and Rendell were appointed secretaries *pro tem.*, and it was arranged that they should call together a full meeting, the same to take place at Mouflet's Hotel, on the 1st inst. One important fact remains to be mentioned, viz., that if the proposed association becomes an accomplished fact, and there be a reasonable prospect of its being a permanent institution, Mr. Medley is favourably disposed to assist it with a grant for prizes from the Lowenthal fund. An intimation to this effect is contained in a letter from that gentleman to the *Holloway Press*, and he therein expresses a wish to know how it is proposed to expend any such grant, whether in money prizes, or in establishing some permanent trophy. We strongly advise the executive of the new association to adopt the latter course, thereby following the example set by the St. George's and City of London Clubs, in respect of the gifts made to them from the same fund.

Journalists consider it almost impossible to say anything new about the University Boat Race, and the same admission must be made concerning the Annual Dinner of the City Club. For years past we have recorded this

event, and for aught we can see to the contrary it may fall to the lot of some yet unborn chronicler to perform the same office in this journal. Leaving to that possibly more imaginative individual the task of introducing novelty into an old tale, we proceed to state that the members of the City of London Club met on the 20th ultimo, at Mouflet's Hotel, under the chairmanship of the new president, Mr. R. Clarke, to enjoy their annual festival. Supporting the chair were Messrs. Bird, Macdonnell, Howard, Watts, and Manning. On either side of Mr. Gastineau, the vice, sat Messrs. Duffy and Delannoy, while Mr. H. F. Down, who was in some sort a sub-vice, with a table end to take care of, had the sympathies of Messrs. Blackburne, Potter, and Lord, who were his *voisins*. The repast was in all its stages super-excellent, and it was admitted that the genial host, Mr. Boyce, had outdone his previous very sufficient efforts in that behalf. After the disappearance of the cloth drafts were drawn upon the Bank of Compliments and duly honoured. Mr. Gastineau was toasted amidst much applause. The services of Messrs. Manning, Howard, and H. F. Down, as ex-vice, treasurer, and secretary, were then respectively acknowledged. The committee were not forgotten, and Mr. Potter had to reply for them. The presence of visitors was recognized, with M. Delannoy as their spokesman, and the toast of the Chess Press gave Mr. Duffy the opportunity of pointing out, amongst other matters, how that through its offices the skill of expert players was made available to the general profit of the Chess community. No doubt he was perfectly right, and moreover this publicity is in itself a means of improving the play, even of the strongest, for the readers of Chess journals are, as it were, a band of critical spectators. Players, whose games are likely to be published, feel this, and do their utmost to avoid appearing as blunderers. In fact they aim so to play as to obtain the flattering approval of the Chess public, a very natural and not blameworthy desire in itself, though no doubt often accompanied by much vain glory and self-adulation. The closing toasts were "The eminent players" present, coupled with the name of Mr. Bird, and "The President" proposed, just as its object disappeared from the room, for a train had to be caught, and it was expected that the engine-driver, being an unsociable kind of fellow, would not wait. Altogether a very pleasant evening was passed, and of course it was not all speech-making. There were songs and elocutionary displays, the company being indebted therefore to Messrs. H. F. Down, Gastineau, Watts, Pizzi, MacDonnell, Schroeder and Smith.

Mr. Blackburne's blindfold exhibition came off in due course on Saturday, the 16th ult., at Mouflet's Hotel. He had invited eight of the local metropolitan Chess clubs to send their strongest representatives to take boards against him on the occasion. The invitation was cordially responded to, and the following associations, by their chosen champions, came to do battle, viz., Railway Clearing House, Mr. J. Tarrant; Bermondsey, Mr. Block; Excelsior, Mr. Wilson; Shaftesbury, Mr. Weightman; Greenwich, Mr. Piper; Athenæum, Mr. Hamlyn; Old Change, Mr. Webber; and Eclectic, Mr. Hoon. Mr. Blackburne played rather slower than usual, but with much skill. His powers were particularly displayed in one or two of the games where he had the worse position, as, for instance, in that of Mr. Block, which we publish in this number. The contest commenced at a quarter to five, p.m., and finished somewhere about eleven o'clock; by that time Mr. Blackburne had defeated seven out of his eight opponents, and there only remained Mr. Tarrant, of the Railway Clearing House. That gentleman was offered a draw, and accepted it with some promptness. The final score, therefore, was seven games won by the blindfold player, none lost, and one drawn. The performance was watched from beginning to end by a large number of spectators, members of the various local clubs, &c. Their interest seemed unflagging, and in some instances its manifestations would not have pleased the sage of Chelsea. There was a deficiency of the silence that is golden. Not to put too fine a point upon it, the players were not sufficiently left to their own devices. There was much audible discussion over the points of some of the games. There ought to be two or three marshals appointed to preserve order and maintain fairness on these occasions. However, all is well that ends well. We cannot forbear carrying our arithmetical calculations respecting Mr. Blackburne's late doings a step further. He has now in a short space of time given six performances, consisting of fifty-one blindfold games. Of these he has won thirty-seven, drawn twelve, and lost only *two*. Repetitions weary, and therefore our synopsis will not be carried any further on future occasions, but such a remarkable feat as the playing of half a hundred blindfold games without losing more than two seems well deserving of being recorded, especially when it is considered that Mr. Blackburne's opponents were the pick of the various clubs or neighbourhoods where the different exhibitions took place.

The City of London Handicap, with its sixty-four entries, will soon be a thing of the past. In Division A Messrs. Eschwege and Potter are the only players left, consequently they are prize-holders. The winner in the contest now pending between them will have the first prize, the other taking second honours. The odds between them are Pawn and two moves. In Division B only Messrs. Heywood and Walthew remain. The former concedes to the latter Pawn and move. They play for third and fourth prizes. A third class even tourney has been started at this club, the entrants being Messrs. Beardsell, Bensheim, Block, Bussy, Blunt, H. F. Down, Manning, Philp, Stevens, and Watts. The Annual Lower Class Handicap has also been commenced.

A drawn match took place on the 28th of February between the Railway Clearing House and Jewish Chess Clubs, each side winning six games, with two draws. We may observe that the Athenæum and Eclectic have played five matches this season. The last one, as given on next page, was for the conqueror, and as will be noticed was won by the Athenæum. The unfinished game, upon which the contest between the Eclectic and Excelsior

depended, and referred to last month, was between Messrs. Wilson and Hodge. It was adjudged a draw, and consequently the Eclectic won the match.

Through press of matter we are unable this month to do more than give a tabulated list of—

METROPOLITAN CLUB MATCHES.

Victors.	Losers.	Date.	Where Played.	Score.
Kentish Town	Young Men's Catholic Association	February 19th ...	Wilkin Street	Won by 1 game
Eclectic	Excelsior	„ 23rd ...	Camberwell Hall ...	4 to 3—3 draws
Railway Clearing House	Gresham	„ 26th ...	Wood Street, E.C. ...	8 to 2
City of London Fifth Class	Eclectic	March 1st ...	Mouflet's Hotel ...	5 to 4
Kentish Town	North London	„ 2nd ...	Wilkin Street	5 to 3
Railway Clearing House	Eclectic	„ 7th ...	123, Seymour Street ...	7 to 3—3 draws
Athenæum	St. James's	„ 9th ...	Camden Road	5 to 2—3 draws
Peckham Mutuals ...	Excelsior	„ 9th ...	Camberwell Hall ...	Won by 2 games
Athenæum	North London	„ 14th ...	The Mitford, Dalston ...	6 to 5—2 draws
Athenæum	Eclectic	„ 23rd ...	Camden Road	9 to 5—1 draw

The Hackney Chess Club played the return match against the Clapton, on Monday, the 18th instant, the result being in favour of Hackney by three games to two, and three draws. The players for Clapton were Messrs. Hodge, Wood, Garroway, Broderib, Kirwin, Ropes, Billings, and Viney; for Hackney, Messrs. Provost, Scott, Oliver, Thies, Cooper, Fareman, Osborne, and Conney. Hackney also played the return against Kentish Town on Thursday, the 21st inst., being again the victors, by five games to two. with the following players: Kentish Town—Messrs. Physick, Yarnold, Hunt, Benfield, Pile, Barrett, and King. Hackney—Messrs. Hoon, Scott, Cooper, Fareman, G. Scott, Ive, and Connery. The Hackney first tournament has just finished, the winner of the silver cup being Mr. Abraham Provost, who is thus champion. The match season has now finished, the result being (having played eight matches) that Hackney won five, lost two, and drew one.

LOWENTHAL CHALLENGE CUP.

The following are the proposed rules and regulations respecting the play for the above Cup drawn up by the St. George's Club:—

1. The custody of the Lowenthal Challenge Cup, presented, by Mr. Medley out of funds at his disposal, in memory of the late Mr. Lowenthal, is vested in three trustees appointed by deed for that purpose by Mr. Medley.

2. A yearly contest will be held in the month of May open to the town and country members of the St. George's Chess Club on payment of an entrance fee of £1.

3. The winner of the contest, as champion of the Club for the year, shall hold the Cup in his possession for the year of his championship, subject to the execution of a bond in £200 for its safe restoration when called upon, and on giving such other securities as the trustees may require.

4. The Cup shall be returned to the custody of the trustees on or before the 30th of April for the annual competition, previous to which date members wishing to compete must signify their intention in writing to the Honorary Secretary.

5. Should there be only two competitors the championship shall be decided by a match for the first five (5) games won. Should there be three competitors, each shall play five games with each other competitor, and the victory shall be settled by the score, drawn games counting one half to each player. Should there be four competitors, each shall play four games with each; in case of five or six competitors, three games; and in case of seven or more, two games. In the case of two or more competitors making an equal highest score, the contest shall be continued until the victory is decided in favour of one player.

6. In case of there being not more than three competitors, all the entries shall go to the Champion, when there are four or five, the holder of the next highest score shall save his stake: and when there are six or more competitors, two thirds of the entries shall go to the champion and one third to the holder of the next highest score.

7. All Games must be played on the premises of the St. George's Chess Club for the time being, and the first player of each game shall record it, and give a correct copy to the honorary Secretary. These records shall be the property of the Club, of which the honorary Secretary is to have authority to grant copies to any responsible Editor of Chess Periodicals applying for the same at his own expense.

8. Any player can demand a Time Limit of 20 moves an hour.

9. A playing Committee, consisting of three members of the Club not engaged in the contest, shall be appointed with authority to decide all points in dispute.

10. The hours of play shall be the hours during which the Club is open; if any two players cannot agree as to the time for play, it shall be settled by the Playing Committee.

11. No adjournment of a Game can be demanded as a right by either player, until the completion of three hours play from the commencement of the sitting. In all cases of adjournment, the last player shall make his move, and deposit it in a sealed envelope to be opened only by his antagonist on the resumption of the Game.

12. Any Member after entering his name for competition shall be bound to play three games weekly until the completion of the contest, and no competitor shall resign the contest except with the permission of the playing committee.

13. Any player failing to play three games in a week except for reasons that may be approved by the playing committee, shall for the first omission forfeit the sum of £1, for the second £2, and for the third shall be excluded from the competition.

14. In view of the great inconvenience and injustice that may be caused by withdrawal from the contest, any player resigning the same without the sanction of the playing committee shall pay a fine of £3.

15. No resignation of an unplayed game in favour of any opponent is permitted, but should any player resign the contest or be excluded from the playing committee, all his played games shall be annulled, and the score altered accordingly.

16. All fines collected under these rules shall be credited to a fund to meet all expenses attendant on the Challenge Cup and the yearly competition.

17. The Club Committee reserve to themselves power to revise these Rules.

John Cochrane.

THE career of John Cochrane, whose death on the 2nd ultimo is announced this month, extended over a period, in all respects the most interesting in the annals of English Chess. He was a contemporary of Sarratt's, and a player of note when Lewis was at the top of his force. He played with Labourdonnais before the Frenchman's great adversary, McDonnell, was known in the Chess world, and was a successful writer upon the game when (1822) Staunton was a schoolboy. More than fifty years ago (1824) Cochrane was the leading spirit on the London side in the celebrated match, by correspondence, between the London and Edinburgh clubs, a band that included such prominent players as Brande, Fraser, Lewis, Mercier, and Pratt. The plan of attack in the second game of this match, a revival of an old move of Lolli's, since become famous as the Scotch Gambit, was devised by Cochrane, who, however, left England for India before the unnecessary sacrifice of a Rook by the London players led to the loss of the game. He returned from India in 1841, to find Staunton disputing the palm with Popert, and it was during the period, 1841 to 1843, that his best games were played. Most of these were contested with Mr. Staunton, and all that were taken down were published at the time in the *Chess Players' Chronicle*, and subsequently in the *Companion*. He repaired to India in 1843, and was already referred to as a player of a past generation in 1846, but the publication of his games by Mr. Staunton established his reputation as one of the first players of his time.

It is unnecessary to dwell here upon his grievance against the late Mr. Staunton, for publishing an undue proportion of games won of him in their various encounters. Mr. Cochrane was always extremely sensitive upon the subject of his play, and in any case there never could have existed a doubt as to the superiority of Staunton as a match player. The games upon which his reputation as a fine player will chiefly rest are to be found in Staunton's *Handbook* and *Companion* and those played in India, most of which appeared in the *Illustrated London News*, in 1852 and 1853. After his return to England, in 1868, Mr. Cochrane was a constant visitor to the St. George's Chess Club, where he contested a large number of games against the late Herr Lowenthal. Very few of these games have been published, and very few were worthy of the old-time skill of two such renowned players, the average duration of most of them being about a quarter of an hour! Mr. Cochrane was a barrister by profession, and he practised for many years at the Calcutta bar. He died on the 2nd ultimo, in the 87th year of his age, and his funeral was attended by many members of the London Chess circle.

The Earl of Ravensworth.

THE Earl of Ravensworth, who died of heart disease on the 19th inst., although for many years past recognised as an amateur of considerable skill, has no Chess history to record save that he shed lustre upon the game to which he was attached by the graces of scholarship and the nobility of his public and private life. He was resident of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Chess Club from 1859 to the time of his death, and some years ago was a frequent visitor to the club room, where he delighted to contend against the best players.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. 1007.—By C. A. GILBERG.

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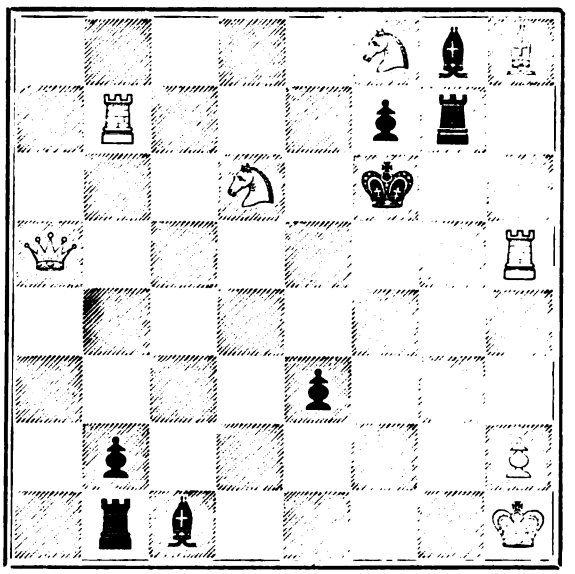

WHITE.

White to play and compel Black to mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 1008.—By J. PIERCE, M.A.

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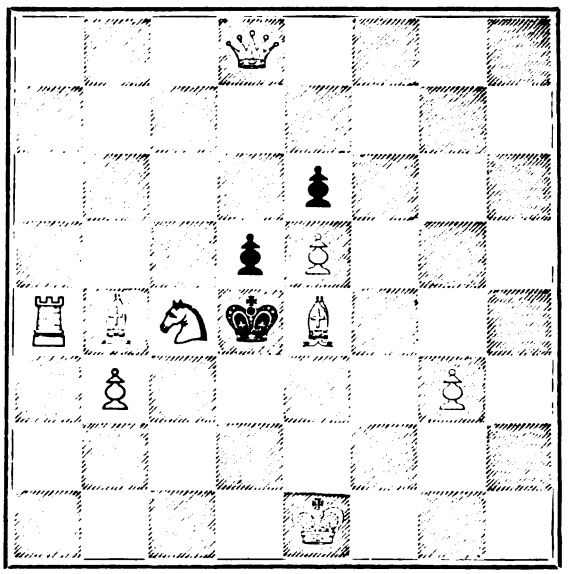

WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 1009.—By T. TARRANT.

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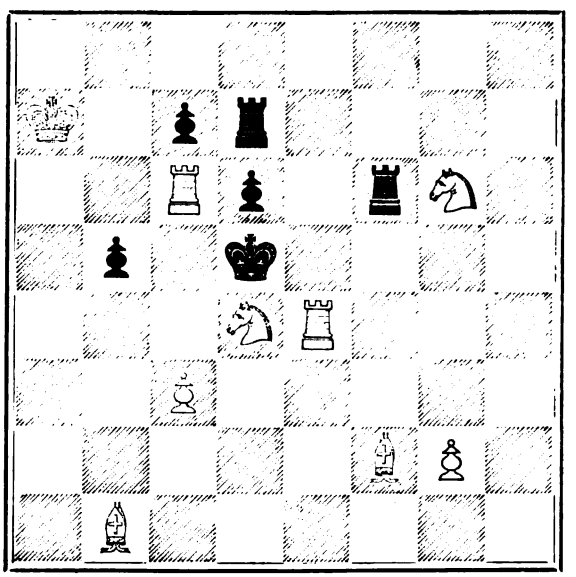

WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM 1010.—By G. BARLOW.

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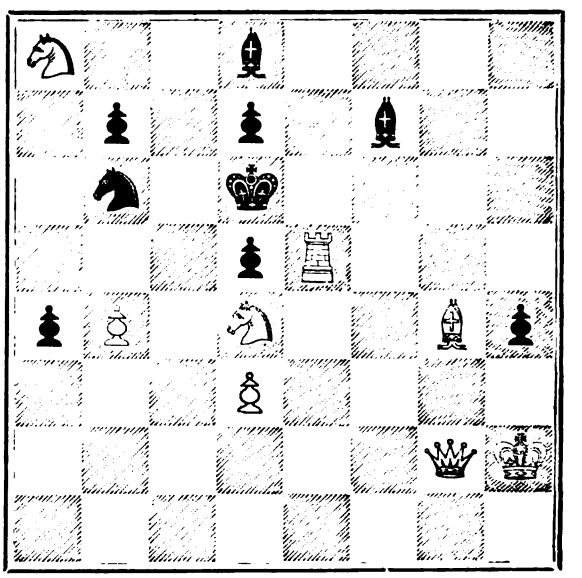

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. 1011.—By Sergt.-Major McARTHUR.

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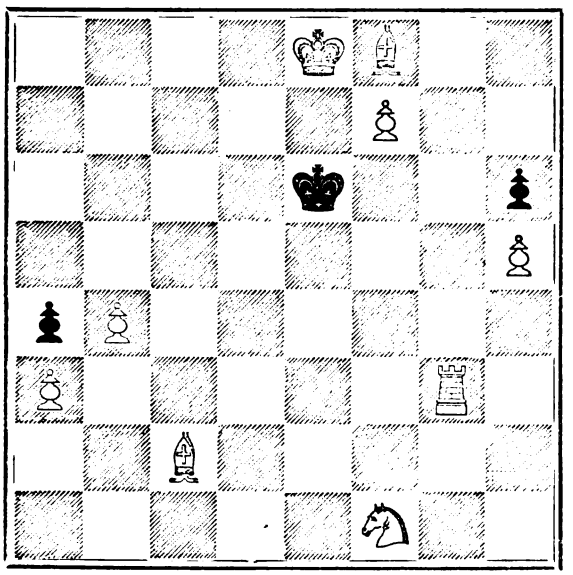

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 1012.—By J. W. ABBOTT.

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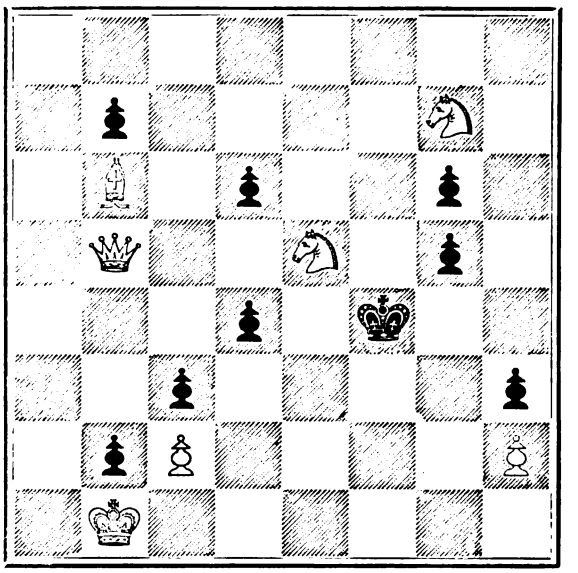

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 1013.—By Sergt.-Major McARTHUR.

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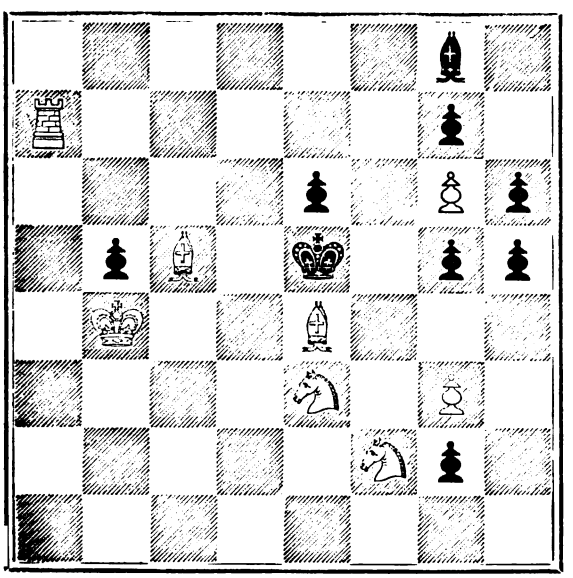
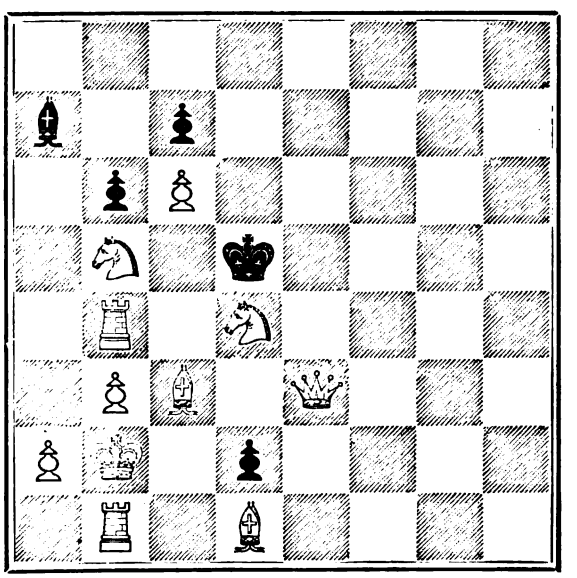


WHITE.

White to play and compel Black to mate in four moves.

PROBLEM No. 1014.—By G. J. SLATER.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and compel Black to mate in nine moves.

GAMES.

Noted by W. N. Potter.

GAME 55.

The following are two of the eight Blindfold games, played by Mr. Blackburne on the 16th ult. at Mouflet's Hotel.

Evans Gambit.

White.	Black.
Mr. Blackburne.	Mr. Block.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to B 4	3 B to B 4
4 P to Q Kt 4	4 B takes P
5 P to B 3	5 B to R 4
6 Castles	6 Kt to B 3
7 P to Q 4	7 P to Q 3 (a)
8 Q to R 4 (b)	8 P to Q R 3
9 P to Q 5	9 P to Q Kt 4
10 B takes P	10 P takes B
11 Q takes P	11 Castles
12 Q takes Kt	12 B to R 3
13 R to K sq	13 B to Q 6 (c)
14 B to Kt 5	14 R to R 3
15 Q to R 4	15 B takes B P
16 Q to Kt 3	16 B takes Q R
17 Q takes B	17 R takes P
18 Q Kt to Q 2	18 Q to R sq
19 B takes Kt	19 P takes B
20 Kt to R 4	20 Q to R 6 (d)
21 Kt to Kt 3	21 Q to Kt 5
22 R to K B sq	22 Q to B 6
23 Q to Q sq (e)	23 K R to R sq
24 Kt to K B 5	24 K to B sq (f)
25 Kt to B sq	25 Q to B 7 (g)
26 Q to Kt 4	26 K to K sq (h)
27 Kt takes R	27 R takes Kt
28 Q to Kt 8 ch	28 K to Q 2
29 Kt to Kt 7	29 P to B 3
30 Q takes P ch	Resigns (i)

(a) Castling is held to be Black's best seventh move. Mr. Block was presumably afraid to venture into the intricacies of the Richardson attack.

(b) This looks strong, but does not seem very profitable in the result.

(c) Black, who has been playing very skilfully, now wins the Exchange.

(d) B to Q 5 should have been played here, keeping the Queen where she is, so as to defend in certain positions the doubled K B P.

(e) A resource either not foreseen or else misappreciated by the opponent.

(f) A very bad selection. R sq, obviously the only place.

(g) Again ill chosen. He should either have moved the Q R somewhere up the line or else played R to B 7. I should have wooed the latter alternative.

(h) Should still have conveyed the R up the file. Moreover B to Q 5 is better than the move made, not but what he has by this time got a bad game.

(i) Because he sees that after K to B sq. White plays P takes P with fatal results.

GAME 56.

French Defence.

White.	Black.
Mr. Blackburne.	Mr. J. Wilson.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 Q Kt to B 3	3 B to Kt 5 (a)
4 P takes P	4 P takes P
5 Kt to B 3	5 Kt to K B 3
6 B to Q 3	6 B to Kt 5 (b)
7 Castles	7 Castles
8 Kt to K 2	8 B takes Kt
9 P takes B	9 Kt to K sq
10 Kt to Kt 3	10 Q Kt to B 3
11 K to R sq	11 Kt to K 2
12 R to K Kt sq	12 P to K B 4
13 Q to B sq	13 R to B 2
14 Q to R 3	14 Q to Q 2
15 B to K Kt 5	15 Kt to Q 3
16 P to B 3 (c)	16 B to R 4
17 Kt to R 5	17 Kt to Kt 3
18 Q R to K sq	18 Q R to K B sq
19 B to K B 4	19 Kt takes B (d)
20 Kt takes Kt	20 P to B 3
21 Kt to K 6	21 R to K sq
22 Kt to Kt 5	22 P to K Kt 3
23 Kt takes R	23 Q takes Kt
24 R takes R ch	24 Q takes R
25 B takes P	25 Kt takes B
26 Q takes Kt	26 Q to K 7
27 Q to Kt 4	27 Q takes K B P
28 P to K B 4	28 B to B 2 (e)
29 Q to B 8 ch	29 K to Kt 2
30 Q takes B ch	30 K to R 3
31 P to K R 3	31 Q to B 6 ch
32 K to R 2	32 Q to B 7 ch
33 R to Kt 2	33 Q to B 8
34 Q to K 5	Resigns

(a) No one now denies that 3 Kt to K B 3 is the best continuation.

(b) A double pin like this is, I suppose, more useless in the French Defence than in any other known opening.

(c) It is easy to foresee that the Black Bishop will not have much to do with the remainder of the game.

(d) This opens the sluice-gates at once. P to B 3 affords the only chance of a struggle.

(e) It suddenly occurs to this Bishop that something is the matter; he comes upstairs to see, and his profitless career is immediately put an end to.

GAME 57.

Played in the match between Liverpool and Manchester on the 16th ultimo.

Sicilian Defence.

White.	Black.
Manchester.	Liverpool.
Mr. A. Steinkuhler.	Mr. A. Burn.
1 P to K 4	1 P to Q B 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P to K 3
3 Kt to K B 3	3 Kt to Q B 3
4 P to B 3	4 P to Q 4
5 P to K 5	5 Kt to R 3 (a)
6 P to Q 4	6 B to Q 2
7 B to Q 3	7 Q to Kt 3
8 B to B 2	8 R to Q B sq
9 Castles (b)	9 P takes P
10 P takes P	10 Kt takes Q P
11 Kt takes Kt	11 B to B 4
12 B to K 3	12 Kt to Kt 5 (c)
13 Q takes Kt	13 B takes Kt
14 Q takes Kt P	14 B takes B ch
15 K to R sq	15 R to K B sq
16 B to Kt 3	16 B to Kt 4
17 R to Q sq	17 R to B 2 (d)
18 Q to B 6	18 R to Kt sq
19 Kt to B 3	19 R takes Kt (e)
20 P takes R	20 B to B 3
21 Q R to Kt sq	21 Q to B 4
22 R to Kt 2	22 P to Q R 4
23 R to K 2	23 P to Kt 4
24 Q to R 4	24 Q takes P (f)
25 Q takes P	25 R to Kt 5
26 Q to R 3 (g)	26 R takes Kt P
27 K takes R	27 P to R 5
28 K to B sq (h)	28 P takes B
29 Q takes B	29 Q takes Q
30 R takes Q	30 P takes P
31 R to Q R 3 and wins.	

(a) White's method of opening his game has practically brought about the condemned variation of the French Defence. Black therefore should proceed upon those lines and play P to B 3, instead of as in the text.

(b) Rash, according to my ideas.

(c) I miss here the brightness of insight to be expected from Mr. Burn. His sacrifice was quite sound, but the right move now is Q takes Kt P. White's best reply is B to Kt 3 and then Kt to Kt 5 comes in with much effect.

(d) The object of this move is of course to play P to B 4, if the White Queen stay where she is and if she go away then to take possession of the K Kt file, but the conception is not sound. He could, I think, have captured the K B P.

(e) The opponent threatens Kt to K 4, but the game is not so bad that this

sacrifice is necessary; B to B 3, to be followed by B to B 4, if not perfectly satisfactory, must be better.

(f) An ingenious device, tempting White to reply with R to Q B 2, whereupon P would go to Q 5, but Mr. Steinkuhler is too experienced to be so caught.

(g) One diamond cutting the other. If Rook retire White will now play R to Q B 2.

(h) Which means victory.

GAME 58.

Allgaier Gambit—Thorold's Attack.

White.	Black.
Mr. E. Freeborough.	Mr. B. Ashleigh.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 Kt to K B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 P to K R 4	4 P to Kt 5
5 Kt to Kt 5	5 P to K R 3
6 Kt takes P	6 K takes Kt
7 P to Q 4	7 P to Q 4
8 B takes P	8 Kt to K B 3 (a)
9 B to K 2 (b)	9 B to K 3
10 Castles	10 K to Kt 2
11 Kt to B 3	11 B to K 2
12 Kt to Kt 5 (c)	12 Kt to Q R 3
13 B to K 5	13 P to B 3
14 Kt to B 3	14 Q to Q 2
15 Q to Q 2	15 Q R to K B sq
16 Q to B 4	16 Kt to Q Kt sq
17 R to B 2	17 Q to Q B sq
18 P takes P	18 P takes P
19 B to Q 3	19 Kt to B 3
20 Q R to K B sq	20 Kt takes B
21 Q takes Kt	21 R to B 2 (d)
22 Kt to K 2	22 R to K sq
23 Kt to B 4	23 B to Q sq
24 Kt to R 5 ch	24 K to B sq
25 Kt takes Kt	25 B takes Kt
26 R takes B	26 Q to Q 2
27 R takes R ch	27 B takes R
28 Q to R 8 ch	28 K to K 2
29 R takes B ch	29 K takes R
30 Q to R 7 ch	30 K to K 3
31 B to B 5 ch and wins (e)	

(a) White generally obtains such a strong game from 9 B to B 4 ch, and 10 Castles, after P takes P, that Mr. Ashleigh is quite to be sympathised with in trying another continuation.

(b) Very well conceived, and in strict accordance with the principle of this attack, which places the speedy Castling of the King above every other consideration.

(c) The object of this peculiar looking move does not immediately strike the mind, but a little reflection shews that White is anxious to prevent the Q Kt from coming to Q 2. I call that very intelligent play indeed.

(d) If 21 Q to Q 2 intending B to Q 3, White's reply will be 22 Kt to Kt 5, P to R 3, 23 Kt to B 7, B to Kt sq, 24 R to B 5 with a fine attack.

(e) It is a pleasure to go through a game like this, and I hope Mr. Freeborough will from time to time favour us with similar specimens of his very superior style of play.

GAME 59.

Played in India by the late Mr. John Cochrane.

Petroff Defence—Cochrane Attack.

White.	Black.
Mr. Cochrane.	The Brahmin.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to K B 3
3 Kt takes P	3 P to Q 3
4 Kt takes P (a)	4 K takes Kt
5 B to B 4 ch	5 K to K sq (b)
6 Castles	6 P to B 4
7 P to K R 3	7 Q to B 2
8 P to B 4	8 Kt to B 3
9 Kt to B 3	9 P to Q R 3
10 P to Q R 4	10 Q to K 2 (c)
11 Kt to Q 5	11 Q to Q sq
12 P to Q 4	12 P takes P
13 P to K 5	13 Kt takes Kt
14 B takes Kt	14 P takes P
15 B takes Kt ch	15 P takes B
16 Q to R 5 ch	16 K to Q 2
17 P takes P	17 K to B 2
18 R to B 7 ch	18 K to Kt sq
19 P to K 6	19 B to Q 3
20 B to Kt 5	20 Q to Kt 3
21 P to R 5	21 Q to B 4
22 P to Q Kt 4	22 Q to K 4 (d)
23 B to B 4 (e)	23 Q takes K P
24 Q to Q B 5	24 Q takes R
25 B takes B ch and wins.	

(a) Invented by Mr. Cochrane. Petroff stared when he saw it. "Why they have actually turned my opening into a Gambit; should have thought it impossible."

(b) The Bishop should be interposed but no doubt the Hindoo expert considered the King too sacred a personage to be brought on to the third line.

(c) B to K 2 is better.

(d) Affording an opportunity of which Mr. Cochrane is not slow to avail himself. The Brahmin should have played her to Q 4.

(e) This would have been of no avail last move.

GAME 60.

Played with Labourdonnais.

Cochrane Gambit.

White.	Black.
M. Labourdonnais.	Mr. Cochrane.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 Kt to K B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 B to B 4	4 P to Kt 5
5 Kt to K 5	5 Q to R 5 ch
6 K to B sq	6 P to B 6 (a)
7 P to K Kt 3	7 Q to R 6 ch
8 K to B 2	8 Q to Kt 7 ch
9 K to K 3	9 B to R 3 ch
10 K to Q 3	10 P to Q 4
11 B takes P	11 Kt to R 3
12 P to B 3	12 P to Q B 3
13 B takes K B P ch	13 K to K 2
14 B to Kt 3	14 Kt to B 4 ch
15 K to B 2	15 Kt takes P
16 Q to B sq (b)	16 B to B 4
17 Q takes Q	17 Kt to B 7 dis ch
18 P to Q 3	18 P takes Q
19 R to Kt sq	19 R to Q sq
20 B takes B	20 Kt takes B
21 R takes P	21 Kt takes P
22 Kt takes Kt	22 B takes Kt ch
23 K to B sq	23 K R to B sq
24 Kt to Q 2	24 Kt to B 4
25 B to Q sq	25 Kt to K 6
26 K R to Kt sq	26 B to B 8
27 P to Kt 3 (e)	27 R to B 7
28 R takes B	28 Kt takes R
29 Kt takes Kt	29 R takes B ch and wins.

(a) This Gambit is nearly sixty years old. Lowenthal preferred it to the Salvio and Von der Lasa seems to take the same view.

(b) White has a lost game, play how he may.

(c) If he try B takes P the Rook will go to B 7 all the same.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 950.

1 Kt to Kt 6	1 P takes B
2 Kt to B 6	2 B takes Kt
3 Q to R 7	3 K takes R or anything
4 Q or Kt mates accordingly	
	1 Kt takes B
2 Kt to Kt 5	2 P to B 4
3 Q to Kt 8 ch	3 K takes R, or K to B 3
4 Kt mates	

Black has other defences.

No. 952.

1 R to Kt 6	1 B takes R
2 Kt to K 7	2 Kt takes Kt
3 Kt to Q B 6 ch	3 K moves
4 Q or B mates	
	1 K to K B 6
2 B takes Kt	2 B takes R
3 Q to K 3 ch	3 K takes Kt
4 Q mates	

No. 953.

1 Q to B 2	1 Kt to K 3
2 Q to B 6 ch	2 K takes Q
3 Kt mates	
	1 Kt to K 7
2 B to Kt 7 ch	2 Aught
3 Mates accordingly	

No. 954.

1 Q to K B 2	1 Aught
2 Mates	

No. 955.

Incorrect; 1 Q to K 3, or 1 Q to Kt sq answering equally well.

No. 956.

1 Kt to K B 5	1 Aught
2 Mates	

No. 957.

1 B to K 6	1 Kt to Kt 6
2 Kt to B 2 ch	2 K to B 5
3 Kt takes Kt mates	

No. 958.

1 Q to R 7	1 P moves
2 R to Kt 3	2 Aught
3 Mates	

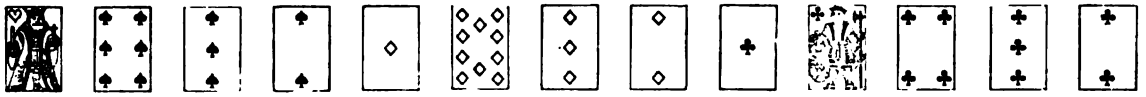
DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. 140.

By Mr. F. H. LEWIS.

A's Hand.

X's Hand.

B's Hand.



Z's Hand.

A to lead. Spades trump. A and B to make 3 by Cards.

SOLUTION OF DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. 139.

By J. D. Melrose.

1. A leads Diamond; won by A.
2. B leads Heart Ace; won by B.
3. B leads Heart; won by Z.
4. Z leads Spade; won by B.
5. B leads Club; won by A.
6. A leads Diamond; won by B.
7. B leads Diamond; won by B.
8. B leads Club; won by A.
9. A leads Club; won by B with trumps.
10. B leads Spades; won by A.
11. A leads Diamond; won by X.
12. X leads Heart; won by A.
13. A leads Heart; won by A.

Correct Solutions from J. D. Melrose, P. C. J. Grosmont, J. C. N., R. A. B., Beta, R. F. L., Brighton, Dover Club, Junior, H., Young Hand, and Bessie. All others wrong. Alpha and Beta, Problem, 138, right. J. C. R.—See Solution in our last number. Alpha.—Second letter came in time to avert any ill-feeling. We forgive you.

To the Editor of The Westminster Papers.

Sir,—A friend with whom I have an occasional rubber, will insist on certain ways of playing Whist which I do not find corroborated in any treatise on the game. Some of these are—

1st. If an honour is turned up on his left, the moment he gets in he leads trumps regardless of anything but the turn up.

2nd. If a Knave is led by his right hand adversary and he has the Queen, he maintains that it is the right thing to "head the trick" and play the Queen, also regardless of his hand.

3rd. He declares that with Queen, Knave only, it is a good suit to begin with, he being first player. My friend declines argument, for when I attempt to prove that these procedures cannot be always, and are not even usually right; he answers "I dont care what you say, my way is the right way." Do please, sir, tell us if it is the right way. As regards my friend's play my impression is that he is a good natural player, but that he overlooks his partner's interests and draws no deductions from the lead. Yours faithfully, J. D. B.

[We do not think there is much the matter with your friend's play.

1. We should not lead through an honour simply because it is turned up, and we should not refrain from leading trumps because an honour is turned up to our right. We lead trumps when we want them out.

2. If a Knave is led and we, second player, have Queen, we should generally put it on except when we have Ace.

3. A lead from Queen Knave is not bad if your long suit consists of very small cards.—Ed. Westminster Papers.]

JOTTINGS.

LOO.

We have all heard the story that at one happy period in the History of England every child of nine years old could play Whist. It would be as near the truth to say that every child of three years can play Loo. Every man, woman and child, believes that he or she can play Loo, and that there is nothing in it. We doubt if men realize how much there is in any simple game. Our article this month on Ecarté may open the eyes of the sceptics to the fact that there is something more than luck in Ecarté. Loo is much more simple, but it is essentially a gambling game, and there are no statistics to guide us. We propose to suggest some of the facts that it is desirable to ascertain in order that we may understand the matter. We premise that the game most generally played now is without any kind of force. The dealer need not defend the pool on his own account, but he may take miss for the table, or if miss is gone he may throw up his cards. At the outset if 4, 5, or 6, are playing, can any one answer this question? Is it to the advantage of the dealer to play miss against one stand hand on his own account? or is it better for him to play for the table? We do not know the formula by which we may arrive at the right result, nor have we found any one able to enlighten us. We know that a good player, being last, will stand against miss with the weakest of hands, and these players are generally consistent, and take miss for the table, treating the unknown cards as of very little value. To arrive at the right mode of calculation, the stand hands must be taken as of some ascertained value, having regard to the player being first player (of five) second player, third player or fourth. If the first player stands, he has, presumedly, a stronger hand than the second if he stands (first thrown up) and the second better than the third. The third, in the natural course of events, would take miss, but rather than do so, he might stand on a weaker hand than he would otherwise do, because he knows that the two last players are more likely to play against miss than against a stand hand. Last hand taking miss for himself may win one, two, or three tricks, or he may be looed. On the other hand, if he plays for the table, he cannot be looed, and he may win for the table one, two, or three tricks, in which he has a chance next deal of getting all or some portion of the stake left in.

This seems a very simple matter, and some of our mathematicians might solve the problem for us. According to our recollection of the old game, we did not lose by defending the pool. We have said players will stand against miss with very weak cards, but there are many occasions when one player stands against miss, and the next player has a weak hand, and also stands—can anyone say on what system we ought to play—shall we assume miss to be weak, and the one or two after miss to be weak, or shall we assume that the hands other than miss are average stand hands?

We doubt if anyone realizes the amount of money that changes hands at this game. We tested the time occupied by dealing for three hours at a time, with five or six players, and we found that a round of hands only took ten minutes, or an average of less than two minutes a deal. This includes the collecting the cards and money, dealing the cards, deciding whether each would play or not, playing the hand, and dividing the money. We do not think anyone would imagine all this could be done in two minutes. Now suppose we play putting in 3s. for a single, and 6s. for the deal, and that singles occur every other time, and six are playing, we have put in 3s. twice, and 6s. once. That is 12s. every ten minutes or £3 12s. per hour. Convert the game into pounds instead of shillings, and you have £72 gone per hour without any fault of your own. This £72 has to be got back in play, and when we play we know that there is the risk of being looed. We have played for one hour and three quarters without playing once, and without a possible chance of play. The man who waits for a certainy (certaintly only representing one trick, say an Ace or King, Queen or Queen, Knave, 10), has to do so at the price of £72 per hour. We apprehend that anyone who tried that game would lose his money. The certainty game will not do, or we should all win, and the baby of three years old would be as good as the player of fifty. Again, simple calculations will not do alone. We have been looed nine times in a night on the King of Trumps, or the Queen with King turned up, add this to the 72s. or pounds per hour, and see what money changes hands. In standing on the King if six play, we have twenty-one cards out of fifty-two, and by the doctrine of chances the King should win, as we have no doubt in the long run he must, but the observation of many old players is unfavourable to the King, because when the King is looed it makes a much stronger impression on the players than if he won. But the intermediate hands are not so easily calculated. Is there no one competent to work out this, as our able mathematician did the Ecarté hands?

How often does the Loo occur. Can any one tell the number of Loos on an average. Some say you can have no calculation, because no two sets of players play alike. Quite true, no two horses run alike. The horses of one year are not the same as the horses of another year, yet a racing man would tell within 10 seconds the speed at which the Derby will be run on the morning of the race, but no one could do this if he had not the record of the past Derbys to guide him. It came upon us as by surprise, that with five or six players at Loo, that a round is played in less than ten minutes. We asked old Loo players to guess, and no one put such a short time as ten minutes. It can be done much quicker than this. No one knows how often there is a loo. On those occasions on which we have kept a record, the deals are two to one against the loos, *i.e.*, loos occur on an average every other deal;

but this varies very much, not only from the idiosyncracies of the players, but with the amount of the pool. The players occasionally seem as steady as old horses, and then become skittish and run away. Some are not content with being looed one, they try to get their money back next time. If a loo player were inclined to accept a piece of advice, we should tell him, "if you are looed once, do not play the next time without a little better hand than you would ordinarily play upon." In theory it should make no difference. The past has nothing to do with the present, but it is the inclination to play on a rash hand that makes it advisable to resist the tendency to run after your money. If you are playing with the limit of a £1 1s., and there gets into the pool £2 2s., or £3 3s., a greater number will play, and therefore more will get looed, and so long as the pool remains high the average of the loos will increase until we get back to the singles, and we go on for single after single without a loo. We have tested the number of loos for many hours with this result—five play, average time per round one hour=30 hands, average loos 16.

It has yet to be calculated on what weak hands we can profitably stand when the pool becomes double or treble the limit, and no calculation can be made except on some basis. At Ecarté we call a stand hand one on which the odds in favour of getting the odd trick is two to one. A stand hand at Loo should probably be one on which the odds are two to one that the player gets a trick, and the odds would be reduced by the increased profit against the same risk. But we say again, we want a basis for our foundations.

Any one who watches the game closely is astonished at the number of times men get out with the odd cards, being beaten on the good trump or their two trumps. The value of the loose cards must be taken into account, as at Ecarté. Then, again when we have the option of leading the higher or lower trumps, it is surely capable of demonstration which is the most advantageous card to lead of twelve cards leaving out the Ace in every combination. We all know the players who lead out the King in the hope of looing their adversaries, and who gets looed for his greed when he might get two tricks by leading the other card. We were recently looed by leading out the Queen and 7, the King being turned up; wrong play against two stand hands, we think, but we played the Queen because our hand was "miss," and we thought that the two after us were speculating on our weakness. Then suppose you have miss, and you take up trump 2 and Ace King of different suits, and then two players stand against you, what are your chances in leading the trump as against leading one of your plain suits; or, take a similar case with a trump, a 2 of a plain suit and King of another suit are the chances better in leading the 2 as some good players allege, or is it best to play your best card? These things should be settled by figures, instead of being left to the observation and experience so painfully bought at present. No one can imagine that figures will prove a substitute for observation, but there can be no reason why the sign-post should not be erected, giving some guide, because many people know the road to the next town.

In sitting down to play Loo, the first thing to be done is to arrange the seats of the different players, and this is done invariably by lot. There must be no option left to the players. This is not the old superstition about seats that we witness at Whist, but a real and tangible question of profit and loss. To sit after one player rather than another is an important point pecuniarily, and we would willingly pay a substantial sum for one seat in preference to another: To give away a chance where money is of so much importance, and such large stakes are in issue, is quite out of the question. The manner in which the seats are arranged is usually as follows:—The Captain takes out 2 sets of 5 cards in duplicate, say Ace, King, Queen, Knave, 10 and then deals out the first set round the table and he then shuffles the other 5 cards, and places them on the table face downwards. Each player draws a card, and he takes that seat with which his card pairs and so on; and the cards being shuffled and cut, the Captain turns up one card to each player until the Knave comes and that player is the dealer. The laws should be agreed upon, and the senior Loo player of the party should be appointed umpire to decide all questions of law or fact. It is scarcely necessary in civilized society to say that his ruling, whether the decision is right or wrong, must be implicitly and cheerfully obeyed. No one can play a game without sometimes incurring a penalty. Pay it and look pleasant, and do not be such a cad as to wrangle about it. When men gamble they are to some extent excited. Some of us are blessed with nerves, and we are more easily irritated at cards than at other times. It is not usual for one player to annoy the rest of the table by making a noise. The world was not made for noisy men alone, yet all noisy men appear to think that so long as they amuse themselves, they have filled their duty to society. It may be, and we are inclined to think that it is so, that a gambler has nothing to do with society but to prey upon it. Be it so; the victims if they lose their money may surely do so in comfort without being distracted by noise. If we are all on an equality no one has the right to do anything that is disagreeable to the wishes of the rest of the rest of the party. A member of a club, whatever his rights, may not take a drum and beat it in the card room.

The Loo players have duties to perform which many neglect. It is the ordinary duty of the dealer to collect and divide the stakes, and be answerable for the pool. It is much better for the player, before the dealer, to collect the money and put it in the middle of the table. The dealer has plenty to do in seeing that the cards are shuffled, cut, and dealt. The dealer should place the remainder of the pack in the middle of the table, and keep all the players informed of the stake in the pool, the number of players, and so on. This done, the second player to the dealer's left, should collect the cards, shuffle them and place them to his right, ready for the next deal. Attention to these details, with a comparative degree of quiet, adds to the pleasure and comfort of all duties due to the harmony of the guests assembled.

Whilst we are on the subject may we say Loo is not a game of brag. It is an absolute law that no intimation

of any kind should be given of the state of your hand. In many societies a player would be looed for intimating that he had a good or bad hand. An intimation may be given as well by a look or a gesture as by word of mouth. We are aware that some players cannot help showing their hands by their face; to them we do not refer. There are others that contend that inasmuch as it is difficult to define what is an intimation, that therefore an intimation is no offence. It is to warn those who think they are at liberty to play Loo as they would Brag or Poker, that we make this remark. The tone of voice should be the same whether you play a good or bad hand. The rap on the table to denote that you will play is not to be regulated in sound or force by the goodness or badness of your hand, or by your desire to make the other players believe you have an extra good hand; and lastly, no one should ever look at his cards before his turn, except with a penalty agreed on, and the penalty, we think, should be forfeiture of the right to play that hand, accompanied by a fine.

DRAWING TWO TRUMPS FOR ONE.

A leads trumps. B, partner, wins with Knave and returns the Queen. This wins and A does not follow suit. B leads Diamond deuce. A wins with Queen and returns King. B puts on King of trumps, Diamond suit established against A and B. At end of hand, A *loq.*—" Why, partner, would you not go on with trumps?" B.—" Oh yes, and draw two for one!!—no, thank you. A.—" Then why trump my King of Diamonds?" B.—" Why, you could not have the Ace." A.—" But the King of trumps must make some time." B.—" Yes, that is it. Did not Emgeen write on the importance of time? You will never understand the rules if you live to the age of Methusaleh." A.—" But why lead a singleton at all?" B.—" I always do, and in the long run it answers, and there are plenty of authorities in favour of my view." Utter collapse of A.

REVIEWS.

ÉCARTÉ—CAVENDISH.

THIRD NOTICE.

To the Editor of THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—You have written on the laws and on the treatise on the game, and, pursuant to your request, I propose to deal with that part of the book which treats of play. At the outset I must say the book is very imperfect, and although professing to indicate fine play is only adapted for tyros, or, as it is termed by the French players, *bon seulement pour un jeu en famille.*

In discarding the author's idea of standing with the three smallest trumps, and two sevens in plain suits as a two to one hand is not borne out by calculation; besides, it is evident that the discard *must* improve the hand.

When the dealer has a hand which is not a stand hand, with King, accompanied by three or four of the same suit, the King is generally discarded. The same observation applies to the non-dealer's hand if he has no trump.

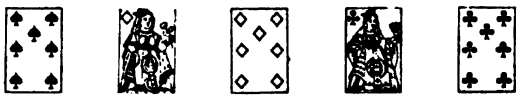
On being refused, the leader, having a hand with an even chance to make the trick, is right to play for it, but as these hands have never been calculated, they do not appear in this book. To save a vole, the advice to play out a King ALWAYS, is erroneous, which is evident from the following illustration :—

Hand 1.

It it obvious that saving the vole (on being refused) depends on the dealer holding at least one Diamond, r one of the sevens in other suits, unguarded, and the chances to save are equal, whether the leader plays one the odd cards or the King. But there are stand hands for the dealer which are lost if the leader begins with one

of the odd cards, and there are hardly any if begun otherwise. For instance, the hand No. 3 in the book, likewise No. 10, or hands and variations of hands as follows :—

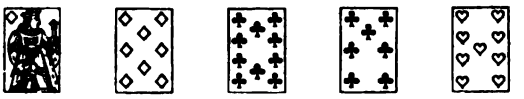
Hand 2.



either loses the trick, if the odd card played passes, or forces a trump, and it gives an equal chance for the trick to leader.

The rule might be right as regards hands with two suits only, but hands of the following kind :—

HAND 3



and their variations have never been tested by calculation; and although I would adopt the recommendation to play the King, I should not like to speak positively on the point. No mention is made about proposing again with a weak hand. With a probable trick, in my opinion a 2nd proposal ought not to be made.

I place the recommendations given on page 43, Nos. 17, and 19 (the first in my opinion wrong) in the category of rules laid down at random and without proper investigation of the result.

That in playing, the general system of leading from numerical strength, or continuing the suit in order to force a trump, does not hold good as regards the best score obtainable, is shown by the following.

I take the stand hand, No. 4 :—

The calculation shows that the same wins 44,459 times and loses 21,321 times.

Voles absolutely . . . . . 792 Total . . 45,251

The considerations to be taken for best play are that against two trumps the three plain cards must be good, and against one trump two out of three at least; and, therefore, the lead of the first card is immaterial, the best being a trump, on account of a slightly increased number of probable voles (possible, but not absolute), but on such being taken, on the return of the lead, trumps cannot be continued, and must be followed by change to plain suits.

Alter the same hand to—

and other considerations come in.

(A.) The lead of trump loses instead of winning, in case of two trumps to the 8 in dealers hand in the following combinations.

Spades two to the 8, one of 7 small Diamonds, one of 5 small Clubs, one of 5 high Hearts.

$4 \times 1 \times 7 \times 5 \times 5$ ..... 700 combinations.

(b) The lead of best plain card the King loses instead of winning, in case of 8 of Trumps alone opposed, no Diamond and one best card in each other suit or calculated

8 of Trumps, 2 best Clubs, 2 best Hearts

$1 \times 1 \times 5 \times 7 \times \frac{5+4}{2}$ .....10 combinations

8 of Trumps, one of 2 Clubs, 3 of 5 Hearts

$1 \times 2 \times \frac{5\ 4\ 3}{1\ 2\ 3}$ .....20 combinations

Do., do., 2 of 5 high Hearts, 1 of 2 small

$1 \times 2 \times {}_{2} \times 2$ 40 .....combinations

Do., do. 1 of 5 Hearts 2 of 7 Clubs and Hearts

$1 \times 2 \times 5 \times \frac{76}{2}$ .....210 combinations

Do. 2 best Clubs, 1 of 5 Clubs, 1 of 5 best Hearts

$1 \times 1 \times 5 \times 5$ .....25 combinations

Do. 1 high Club, 1 of 5 Clubs, 2 of 5 high Hearts

$1 \times 2 \times 5 \times \frac{5 \times 4}{2}$ .....100 combinations

1105

Total combinations ... 405

(c) The smallest card in hand (the 9 of Hearts) being the best to give the lead on the third trick in order to make the 9 of trumps guarded against a tenace, it follows that the lead of Knave of Clubs at first does not affect the result in either that respect or if trumped, and consequently the above slight alteration of the hand in trump from 8 to 9 determines the play as follows :—

1 lead the Knave of Clubs, and if passed, 2 lead the King of Diamonds, and if passed, 3 lead the 9 of Hearts.

The result being treble the number of combinations gained in points (one point gained instead of two lost), this play makes a difference of 3,315 points scored in the whole combinations.

Continuing the analysis, the stand hand,

does not admit of the lead of trumps first, as it loses against two trumps, no Diamond, and 1 or more Hearts, either Diamond or Club, may be led without difference, but with 9 and 7 trumps the lead is limited to Diamonds, King of Clubs losing instead of winning in case of the 8 of trumps alone and no Club opposed.

The advice given as to the play at or against the score of four is right in principle, but not as precise as required.

At 4 all, with an even chance for making the trick, the hand ought to be played. The hand should be played with less than an even chance, but as these have never been calculated, a rough guess as to the strength may be useful. Hands with one trump, single card not below an ace, and not below a tenth, guarded, would represent, in my opinion, the lowest to be played at that point, but it is very difficult to guess what should be the lowest cards for hands without a trump, especially for the leader.

The great mistake in this part of the book is not dividing the play into two distinct categories—viz., from calculation and from inference, which the reader will observe from the following illustrations taken from actual play :—

HAND 4.

Leader proposed, and is refused. The calculation would show that the best chance is to play King of trumps first, and then the two Diamonds ; but if on trumps led a Diamond is discarded the obvious inference (derived from knowledge of *jeux de régle*) is that the dealer has the Queen of Diamonds in hand, no hand with Ace of that suit without a trump being strong enough for refusal, and the strongest combination opposed estimated at.

and variations downwards. Playing one of the odd sevens after trump offers the best chance for making the trick. In this, as in other instances, the word inference here theoretically means calculation, but with altered factors, viz., suppose a card is played or King announced, the calculation is reduced from 5 to 4, for sometimes a less number of unknown cards. Another illustration, one familiar to the best player is the following. Non-dealer has Queen of Spades, trumps, (or a card not below the 10)

and plays the Knave Diamond, on which the dealer announces the King and follows suit. The direct inference derived from the knowledge of the King of trumps opposed is

1. That the trick is won if King is single

2. That if King is guarded the 9 of Clubs must be good, or force a trump (except cases shown in calculations), and therefore the play of 9 Clubs (changing colour or suit) is imperative. The following figures support the reasoning.

Continuing the suit, Dealer wins in case of two or three trumps against the following combinations or cards :

3 Trumps and 2 Diamonds

$1 \times \frac{4 \cdot 3}{2} \times \frac{4 \cdot 3}{2}$ ..... 36 cases

2 trumps, 2 Diamonds, 1 of 5 Clubs

$1 \times 4 \times \frac{4 \cdot 3}{2} \times 4 \times 5$ ..... 120 „

156

Changing suit wins against 3 Trumps, 1 Diamond, 7 or 8 Clubs

$1 \times \frac{4 \cdot 3}{2} \times 4 \times \cdot 2$ ..... 48 cases

2 Trumps, 1 Diamond, 7 or 8 Clubs, 8 Hearts

$1 \times 4 \times 4 \times 2 \cdot 8$ ..... 256 „

304

In all other combinations either play makes no difference. It may be observed here that with the 8 of Clubs instead of the 9, the exceptional combinations are 180 to 152 in favour of continuing the suit but only in case the card played to the 1st trick is a 7, otherwise changing even with an 8 is necessary. Arguing from this case it may be safely assumed that with 2 trumps *not in sequence*, and two of one suit, the change of suit after first trick, the card to be led not under a 9 is imperative, as the announcement of the King does not interfere with the probable result more than to make it obvious or certain. This hand, showing the influence of inference from actual play as against calculation or confirming the same, is also an illustration of the principal of changing suit instead of continuing after the first or subsequent tricks won, which the author completely overlooks. The following hand, cards being refused, affords another illustration :—

HAND No.

Being refused, and having made 2 Diamonds, the leader must change suit, as his best chance for the trick is that the dealer has refused on 2 trumps and 2 Diamonds, and continuing the same suit would leave him to guess at the last trick.

A hand showing the effect of the score on the play, and perhaps the strongest illustration on the value of inference is :—

HAND No.

At the point of score 4 against on being refused, the only combination admitting of a trick consists of 7 of trumps alone, with 4 cards out of 14 Clubs and Hearts.

$1 \times \frac{14 \cdot 13 \cdot 12 \cdot 11}{1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4}$ ..... combinations

And the play is obviously trumps and D, but at the point of the three only the D first.

The use of a singleton (Carte Anglaise) in playing for a trick is not mentioned. I shall have to deal with that in pointing out errors in the *jeux de règle* following the hints.

I hope the above will be interesting to Ecarté players, and convince some who hold the game in contempt, that it contains considerable scope for play. The game has the merit of affording a comparatively easy test of rules laid down, by figures. If one considers the number of mistakes and omissions, already pointed out in this supposed simple game, we must bow our head to "Cavendish" as an innate genius, if he has done as much for Whist as is alleged by the writers of the day. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the intricacies of Whist, to give an opinion on "Cavendish's" performance, but of Ecarté he clearly knows nothing and therefore can teach nothing, and a book on Ecarté by a competent hand, remains to be written.

Yours, &c. P.

[The writer would be glad to receive any suggestion controverting his views and calculations.]

DRAMATIC NOTES.

Mr. Gilbert's *Ne'er-do-Weel*, revised and reproduced under the name of *The Vagabond*, the appearance of Mr. Irving as *Louis XI.*, and of Herr Neville Moritz as a new actor of Shakspeare in broken English, and *The Scar on the Wrist* at the St. James's comprise the scanty list of novelties for the past month. The last may be briefly dismissed as an unsuccessful attempt to popularise melodrama in Pall Mall, and it was a bold experiment on the part of the manager of the St. James' to produce at a slightly unlucky threatre, a bad specimen of an uncongenial type of play. *The Scar on the Wrist* is bad in itself and can hardly be said to be one of those standard English comedies of which the new management of the St. James' promised us a series. Playgoers as a rule like to be sure of the kind of fare that awaits them at any given threatre, and it is a manifest error of policy to oscillate with uncertainty between two opposite styles, as is the case, for instance, at the Olympic, where Mr. Neville seems unable to decide whether to adhere to comedy or melodrama, and is consequently compelled to frequent changes of programme. Another such theatre is the Queen's, which under the present management was to be devoted to well-acted melodrama at moderate prices, but has recently afforded an opportunity to Herr Neville Moritz to appear as Othello and Shylock. The Queen's, nearly always unfortunate, is especially unlucky in introducing a foreign actor of Shakspeare at a time when certain of our leading critics, tired of abasing themselves at the feet of French and Italian actors, have recanted utterly, and now extol the native over foreign talent, attempting to fasten their own past love of the foreigner on the public, which never did take kindly to him, though much bullied at the time for its supposed want of appreciation. We believe that the unfavourable verdict on Herr Moritz is correct, but were he a much better actor than he is we hold, and have always held, that the delivery in broken English of the text of Shakspeare is ruinous to its sense, ridiculous to the ear, and provocative of laughter. Mr. Vezin's Iago, though much superior to Herr Moritz's Othello, is not one of his best impersonations, being marred by indistinctness of utterance, and taken at too fast a pace throughout. No Iago of recent times approaches in excellence that of Mr. Forrester, who in his turn has distinguished himself in nothing else. In the absence of other topics besides those we have mentioned, the occurrence of Ash Wednesday in the month just closed has been made the occasion for the annual outcry in the *Era* and other theatrical journals against the anomalous legislation which causes theatres to be shut, but allows music halls to be open on that day. That this Ash Wednesday legislation is both ridiculous and unjust we have for many years insisted, but we must again take the liberty of doubting whether those who cry out the most against it are those that suffer the most by it. Some amongst the meanest of the rank and file no doubt lose their wages and go fasting by compulsion, but are too humble to protest. The major part of the profession, however, signalise the day, according to their various positions and tastes, with balls, dinners, and suppers. It is a curious result of the attempt to impose a certain religious character on Ash Wednesday that it should become an occasion for merry-making not always of a decent character. And it is a mistake on the part of actors and actresses who in these days reasonably object to be considered different from other people, and who wish to be regarded as ordinary citizens, to run counter to the prejudices of numbers who wish them well, by not merely ignoring the religious character of Ash Wednesday, which is common enough, but by converting it into a day and night of frolic and fastness. The Dramatic and Equestrian Fund Ball, for example, is one of those things done in the name of charity which are best left undone. And the moral of the whole affair is, that our law-givers would be doing a better service to Ash Wednesday by opening the theatres, as by keeping them shut a worse fate befalls it.

From time to time there spring up discussions on and projects for the establishment of a national theatre. Sometimes it is a question in Parliament, or a rumour such as that the other day about Lady Burdett-Coutts and Mr. Irving that starts the question; sometimes a visit by a French company, or the appearance in Othello of a new foreign actor. But no practical result ever follows the amiable theories that are put forth, like many other ideas for the benefit of humanity, without due regard to British want of system and vested interests. Mr. O'Donnell, the Irish Home-ruler, is, it is announced, about to display his interest in the Saxon by moving in the House for State-aid towards the erection and endowment of a theatre in memory of Shakspeare. In July 1871, when we were visited by the *Comedie Francaise*, the same plea for State-aid was put forward at a dinner at the Crystal Palace, but the pleaders were quickly snubbed by Lord Granville, who was present, and who was then in office. Attention was then directed towards the "disinterested" capitalist, who, it was proposed, should buy a theatre, to be conducted on the *Comedie Francaise* principle; that is, the company engaged would fill up vacancies in their body, receive pensions on retirement, and generally manage their own affairs under the control of an independent authority vested in some person, not himself an actor. The objection to this was that, though there were and are capitalists, not often disinterested, behind many London managers, nobody existed who would not only support a theatre for the production of high class drama, but also consent to have no share in the management. In the *Quarterly Review* for January 1872, a guarantee fund, to be raised from a limited number of guarantors, was suggested in place of the capitalists, but it is obvious that the danger of injudicious interference would be greater in proportion to the greater number of interested persons, and a somewhat similar experiment was tried long ago at Drury Lane without success. The whole subject is much too important and

complicated to be properly treated within the limits of our space, but we may say that a theatre after the style of the *Theatre Francais* is not, in our opinion, impracticable, could a capitalist after the pattern of Lady Burdett-Coutts be secured for its founder, and a gentleman, not an actor, for its manager. Mr. Irving might not be out of place in that capacity were it not for the serious drawback that he would also be the leading actor. His address to the Perry Bar Institute on Ash Wednesday shows that he not only loves his profession, is jealous for its credit, and anxious for its elevation, but that he possesses practical common sense; but when we look at the exceedingly feeble company of actors by whom he is supported at the Lyceum, we are not without some doubts that he has the fatal defect of wishing to secure the undivided attention of his audience.

We are sorry that we are unable to join in the chorus of congratulation that has hailed Mr. Irving's appearance in the character of Louis XI. Even his detractors—and they are many—find praise for him in this character, declaring it to be the best thing he has ever done; and it is, therefore, with some diffidence that we venture to state our opinion that, even allowing Mr. Irving's conception of Louis XI. to be correct, his execution of his own conception is faulty and exaggerated. It is not the performance of a tragedian proper, nor of a tragedian after the manner of the late Mr. Robson, but rather of an eccentric comedian of the type of Mr. Sothern. Taken at its best, it is merely a clever piece of character acting, equal to that in the *Lyons Mail*, but inferior to that in the *Bells*. In truth, the Louis XI. of Mr. Boucicault's adaptation is capable of no higher treatment than this, but it is evident that those who have so much praised Mr. Irving place it on a level with his Hamlet and Richard III., which are something more than character parts, and are, in our opinion, the best performances in tragedy Mr. Irving has yet given us. But if Mr. Irving's conception errs in bringing into the foreground the eccentricities rather than the tragic points, such as they are, of *Louis XI.*, his execution errs still more, by reason of natural and artificial defects, in so treating the eccentricities as to reduce them to low comedy. The line which divides grotesque tragedy, such as Mr. Robson's, or tragedy diversified by touches of a grim humour, such as Mr. Phelps was capable of, from burlesque and low comedy, is very thin indeed, and we cannot help thinking that Mr. Irving, in *Louis XI.* has overstepped it. His presentation of the voice of senility, for instance, is like nothing in nature, but resembles rather the queer quavering cackle which actors put on when they play the malignant fairy in a pantomime; and the opposite gruff voice which Mr. Irving's Louis XI. uses at intervals is that of the *Lyons Mail* villain over again. His mouthing in pretence of prayer, when the King hears the Angelus, besides being wrong, as has been generally pointed out, in theory, is, in practice, suggestive once more of pantomime and clown or pantaloon, and, worst of all, his love-making with the village matron is of the oldest and vulgarest low comedy order, being attended by the elbow-nudging and the "clicking" of the tongue against the roof of the mouth, which are the sole property of the stage, and the familiar weapons of broad farce. Briefly, we contend that the Louis XI. of Mr. Irving is eccentric farce, not, as it ought to be, eccentric tragedy, until the last act, and that loses in interest by contrast with *The Bells*. Nor is Mr. Irving's erroneous conception atoned for by any excellence of manner in delivery. That he is often inaudible is, perhaps, not to be imputed to him as a fault that he can avoid, but there can be no excuse for his frolics of mis-pronunciation, which are founded either on error or an exaggerated scrupulosity in accentuation. The words, "lonely wood" become, as pronounced by Mr. Irving, "lunly wudd," and he has numerous opportunities in *Louis XI.* for employing his favourite method of converting "Royal" into "Roy-yal," in which practice, as in other curious sounds, he is faithfully imitated by Miss Virginia Francis. Of Mr. Irving's supporters in the play, it can only be said that so far as their leader falls short of himself, so do they fall short of even the most ordinary merit, and it is a little unfortunate that the Lyceum, which is now patronised to some extent by persons who, as a rule, eschew theatres, boasts the weakest company in London. We cannot help feeling a strong regret at not being able to see the merits of Mr. Irving's latest efforts, for he is a man whom we should delight to honour, in that he is not only an ornament to the stage in his own person, but, as we have already said, seeks to elevate it in the public esteem.

Exactly a month after its first production under the title of the *Ne'er-do-Weel*, Mr. Gilbert's new play, reconstructed and re-written, and also re-named, has again been brought out at the Olympic as *The Vagabond*. We recorded in our last month's issue how well the play began, how it fell off in interest in the middle, and how complete shipwreck attended it at the finish. The verdict of the audience on the first night was decisively hostile, and Mr. Gilbert, with a courage and ingenuity worthy of imitation, resolved not only to admit a failure, but to withdraw the play for revision and reproduction, a course unprecedented within our recollection. But whilst admiring Mr. Gilbert's "cheerful" resignation to the public voice, we must take exception to his plea that a play entirely original should receive more merciful consideration from an audience than mere adaptations from the French, which have already been approved by critical audiences. Now, apart from the inference that in the case of adaptations the London audience meekly accepts the verdict of the Parisian, this involves the supposition that none of the clever people who are engaged in writing, preparing, and producing a play, are able to discover its weak points, and reduced to its extreme limit, the proposition means that whilst the matured and educated experience of Messrs. Neville and Gilbert, the combined abilities of an author and manager, both eminent, were, in the case of the *Ne'er-do-Weel*, unable to see its absurd and unnatural situations, the uneducated gallery boy marked and rejected them in a moment. With regard to *The Vagabond*, it is, no doubt, an improvement on the *Ne'er-do-Weel*, and it was received with unbounded applause by a first-night

audience more disposed to praise than criticism; but it cannot be called a good play. Our readers will recollect that amongst the bad points of the *Ne'er-do-Weel* we reckoned all the third, and half of the second acts, the unnecessary presence of a very weak villain, the frequent introduction of the phrase "For God's sake," and the undisguised love-making of the young ladies. The latter part of the second act is now cut out, and the third totally changed in character; the villain and the adjuration eliminated, and the love-making confined to one young lady, who, it is true, performs the operation both for herself and her friend. These are great improvements, but *The Vagabond* remains unsatisfactory both in construction and in story, and is somewhat in the position of a re-cooked joint, as having lost its flavour. The first act remains as it was before, admirable, and its very excellence renders insipid the strained and vapid transition of the second, and the hopelessly feeble conventionality of the third, in which three pairs of lovers are coupled in the stagiest manner. Mr. Seton and Miss Parminter are found to be slightly bores, and, amongst other omissions, the author might have included the scene between the two ladies in the first act. In one point of his revision Mr. Gilbert has not improved on the original. He now makes Gerard Seton actually in love with his cousin, and her acceptance of Rollestone and appeal to Gerard to transfer his affections to Jessie follow too closely on one another. This vicarious love-making by a lady, and in the presence of the very lady on whose behalf she is pleading, seems to us an utter defiance of taste and probability. The third act of *The Vagabond*, in which Mr. Gilbert shows us Maud Callender imploring Gerard Seton, who five minutes ago loved her, to transfer that love to Jessie O'Hara, who stands by expectantly, with the full knowledge of the other two, is a greater sin against art than the third act of the *Ne'er-do-Weel*, which was simply a farcical absurdity.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

FOREST AND STREAM.—How is it we receive no exchange? Will Mr. Kunkel be so good as to look to this?

SECRETARY JEWISH WORKING MEN'S CLUB.—Certainly, we are always glad of good games or representative games.

NEW FREE LIBRARY, WORCESTER, N. S.—Your name is not down in our books. We send the February and March numbers, but you had better order through your bookseller.

WINSTED NEWS.—We anticipated your request.

The Leader continues to be addressed Barbican. We are unable to avail ourselves of the contents because we received the paper too late.

SCHACHMATNI LISTOCK.—The numbers sent to you were returned by the Post Office marked "Refused." Three numbers herewith.

ATHENÆUM AND DAILY NEWS.—We should be glad to receive all your back numbers that contain a Chess column. Note our right address.

WHIST.

J. G. P.—We are always glad to hear from young players. The hands were not given as our own, they are simply hands which we saw played. We do not pretend to defend all the leads, or to say that they are the best. We are inclined to agree with your criticism. Club King, of course.

S. S.—It is a misdeal, because you have not dealt the cards n order one at a time.

T. J. G.—The rule is clear and beyond all cavil. Money lost at play should be paid at the time, but because men play and lose larger sums than they carry about with them the usages of society sanction the payment on the following day. But as to the following day the rule is peremptory, and we never heard it questioned, or the non-payment defended by any one. It is not simply a Club rule, it is the general law of society, that requires the loser to send the money on the following day. It is true that at some Clubs a weekly settling takes place, and the operation is performed by a paid official. Then all are on an equality. Each man has to pay and receive on the same day, but if A lost £50 to B, and won £100 of D, and D does not pay as he ought to do on the following day, A has to pay the £50 out of his own money instead of out of his winnings.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE.—Please exchange.

B. P.—A card is led out of turn, and left on the table. My partner leads the same suit as the card exposed. 2nd player follows suit. I follow suit and point to the card on the table. Is that a call?—*Ans.* We think so. It is not necessary to use words. The pointing, in effect, said "Play it."

R. S. C. (Isle of Man).—While playing a game of Whist a dispute arose on the following point, bets were made, and it was arranged to write and ask you to be good enough to decide the matter through the medium of your paper:—

A and B are playing against Y and Z.
A's turn to play.

B plays out of turn, and leads Knave of Trumps. Y and Z at once state their intention to call the card, and the game then proceeds by A leading a suit. B has none of this suit, and puts on the Knave of Trumps (the card in question). Y and Z say he cannot play that card, as they have not yet called it. Were they right in preventing the card being played this time?—*Ans.* You cannot prevent B from getting rid of the Knave of Trumps in due course of play.

M. C. C.—A having won a trick, B (his partner) leads Spade King. X (their adversary) says, "It is not your lead" Whereupon B proceeds to take back his King. X says, "Leave that card on the table." A then leads a small Spade, "But," says X "wait, while I ask my partner, whether he shall call a lead or I." A contends that X, in ordering B to

leave the King on the table has already exacted the penalty. Is A right in his contention?—*Ans.* A is not right in his contention. X tells B to leave the card on the table. By so doing he is simply telling B to obey the law. B, without being told, is bound to leave the card on the table. The adversaries must have a reasonable time to consider the penalty.

C.—If dealer has 14 cards and his partner 12 it is a misdeal, although the error is not discovered until the twelfth trick. We agree that this is a bad law. The dealer makes the mistake. He and his partner alone have the power to discover the error, and they can take the chance of the hand being thrown up in their favour by sitting quiet and saying nothing.

M.—A deals and deals so badly that I can see the cards. Am I entitled to a new deal?—*Ans.* We think not. If you can see the cards you should apprise the dealer and warn him not to deal in that manner. We see no reason why you should have a new deal because you have seen the cards dealt. It should be to your advantage.

C. W. C.—What is the ordinary practice of Whist Clubs when six players only are present? On the formation of the first table do the two who cut out (no other member being expected) play Double Dummy as a matter of course? If not, would it be considered a breach of etiquette for one of them to refuse to play Double Dummy on being challenged by the others?—*Ans.* The six go to play Whist, not Double Dummy. The two outsiders wait until the first rubber is over, and then two of the players make way for those first cut out.

Lex.—C in playing dropped a card face upwards, and a card from his hand face downwards on the table. I decided that the card dropped face downwards was "exposed" on or above the table, and that the adversaries had a right to see it, and to call it, if playable to the suit. What say you?—*Ans.* We do not agree. An exposed card is a card dropped face upwards, not face downwards, on the table.

P.—It is B's turn to lead. A leads, but on doing so drops two cards. Can two leads be called? From B first and second from which ever next gets on?—*Ans.* No. A lead can be called from B, and one of the cards on the table belonging to A can be called, the other he may take up.

J. H. L.—We answered your question under a misapprehension of the facts. Upon further consideration we think you are right, but the Club was not a callable card.

ECARTÉ.

J. C. U.—1. The dealer having discarded three cards, deals himself four; what can the non-dealer do? Can he elect to throw up the hand and mark the point. The non-dealer has not seen his take in before making his claim.—*Ans.* The non-dealer can elect to play the hand or not. If he elects to play, he draws one of the cards from the dealer's take; or if he elect to throw up, he marks the point, and the dealer cannot mark the King. 2. The non-dealer having asked for three cards, the dealer gives four. The non-dealer looks at them, and *after* looking, says, "You have given me four cards. What is to be done?" The dealer has not looked at his own take-in.—*Ans.* The non-dealer can play the hand or not. If he elect to play he must throw out the superfluous card. If he elects to throw up, he marks the point. 3. A player (the non-dealer) having discarded three cards on first proposal, claims to take in four the second time. The dealer objects; is the objection good?—*Ans.* We presume you mean that the player asked for three cards the first time, and four the second. He has the right to do so. 4. By what code are bets on such points made in England, without the authority being named to which reference is to be made, to be decided, and by whom is the code published?—*Ans.* The code is binding if adopted, otherwise the authorities would be Major A., Bohn's Handbook, and Cavendish's old laws, which are generally very accurate. The new code, edited by Cavendish, is published by De la Rue and Co.

LOO.

Loo.—There are no binding rules, nor is it likely there ever will be, for no two sets play alike. But if your rule is 2 trumps, lead the highest, and you win the first trick with a plain suit, we think you should lead the highest trump. If, on the contrary, you play 2 trumps, lead one, then if you win the first trick as before, we think you may lead which trump you please.

PIQUET.

J. S.—A elder hand, B younger, who leaves a card and looks at it; A calls 5 cards "good." He then asks B "Have you looked at the card left?" B says "yes." A "then I will look at it." B says "no, not until you play a card." A then says "I play Club," and looks at the left card. Can A now call 3 Kings?—*Ans.* We think not. A must make his call of cards and sequences, and Aces or Kings, without the advantage of seeing the card left by B. When A said he played Club, in law, although the card was not on the table, he had played Club. The card is supposed to be on the table and played. A's mouth was then closed, and he could call nothing more. We certainly do not consider it sharp practice to refuse A permission to call 3 Kings which were in fact good, the card left being an Ace. On the contrary; we would not sanction such a claim for a moment. Why should not A follow the ordinary rules of the game and call what he is entitled to, or what he considers advantageous.

S. G. E.—In a rubicon game, if my adversary calls 47, and I have 48, is it allowable for me to say equal?—*Ans.* No. You must show that your cards are equal.

POKER.

L.—If the players each have two pairs, the highest pair wins. If each have pairs of equal value, then the highest other card wins. If each player has equal cards, say 2 Kings, a Knave, 10, and 9, the pool is divided.

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